SATURDAY
May 13, 2023

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It points to govt. failure in enforcing safety rules

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Suryakumar sizzles as MI trumps GT

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NEARBY

Prediction of Assembly poll outcome tough

BENGALURU
The elections to the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, the results of which will be available in a few hours, have been tough to predict.
» PAGE 8

Parties hold informal meets

BENGALURU
On the eve of the counting of votes, the top leaders of BJP and Congress held informal confabulations to take stock of the situation while JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy, who is in Singapore, monitored the situation from there. » Page 8

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Inflation slips to an 18-month low of 4.7%

Reading stays below RBI's 6% tolerance threshold for price rise; it hit a high of 7.8% last April; prices of pulses, cereals, milk remain a concern

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's retail inflation slid to an 18-month low of 4.7% in April, staying below the Reserve Bank of India's 6% tolerance threshold for price rise for the second successive month, aided by the base effects from last April when it had hit an eight-year high of 7.8%.

Price rise faced by urban consumers cooled to 4.85% in April from 5.9% in March, while it moderated from 5.5% to 4.7% for their rural counterparts. Inflation as per the consumer food price index eased to 3.84% last month from 4.8% in March.

Economists emphasised that the base effects from April 2022 were visible in cooling inflation across all broad segments. However, higher inflation in pulses, personal care products as well as persistent sharp upticks in prices of items such as cereals and milk pose a worry even as vegetable prices are expected to see a seasonal surge.

On a sequential basis, the consumer price index (CPI) grew 0.5% while food prices rose 0.6% from March levels, double the month-on-month rise from February to March, when the headline retail inflation on a year-on-year basis was pegged at 5.66%.

While vegetable prices continued to fall year-on-year, dropping 6.5% in April, they were up 1.8% over March 2023 prices.

CONTINUED ON
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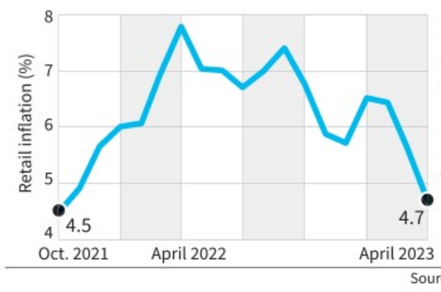
Inflation slows further

Annual retail inflation eased to an 18-month low of 4.7% in April from 5.6% the previous month



- The decline was mainly due to cooling of food prices

Retail inflation in April was the slowest since October 2021 when it was at 4.5%

Source: Reuters, PTI, CMIE

All three key parties on the edge as vote-counting is taken up today

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Amidst tight security and high levels of anxiety among party leaders and candidates, counting of votes polled in the elections to the State Legislative Assembly will be taken up on Saturday. Most of the results will be known by noon. The polling for 224 seats took place on May 10, and the voter turnout was 73.19%.

The elections witnessed a fierce contest between arch-rivals the BJP and the Congress, besides the Janata Dal (S).

Counting of votes will begin at 8 a.m. at 36 centres across Karnataka, and a clear picture on the outcome is expected to emerge by midday. The question is who will secure the magic figure of 113 seats, or will it be a fractured mandate yet again, like in the 2018 polls.

With several exit polls predicting a hung Assembly, the election results will be a watershed moment for all the three major parties. In this election, the BJP contested in all 224 constituencies, the Congress in 223, and the JD (S) in 209.

Southern citadel of BJP

If the BJP returns to power then it will break the jinx of no political party retaining power in the State since 1985, when the erstwhile Janata Party formed the government under Ramakrishna Hegde for a second consecutive term.

For the BJP, which has considered Karnataka as the gateway of the South, a victory will re-establish the sustained charisma of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the well-crafted strategy of Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J.P. Nadda to bring the party back to power, despite the sustained "40% commission sarkara" campaign against the Basavaraj Bommai government by the Congress.

The local unit of the saffron party had largely built its poll campaign around Mr. Modi rather than local issues and the works taken up.

CONTINUED ON
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At work: Preparations for counting of votes being made at a centre in Belagavi on Friday. P.K. BADIGER

Highlights

- Counting starts at **8 a.m.**
- Follow counting updates and election results at: https://ceokarnataka.gov.in and https://results.eci.gov.in
- Total electoral districts: **34**
- Number of Assembly constituencies: **224**
- Total counting centres: **36**
- Returning officers: **224**
- Assistant returning officers: **317**

Supreme Court questions Bengal ban, T.N. alert on *Kerala Story*

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday challenged the West Bengal government to justify its decision to ban the screening of *The Kerala Story*, asking why it thought itself any different from other demographically similar States across the country which are showing the controversial film.

The film-makers, represented by senior advocate Harish Salve, have sought the quashing of a ban imposed on the film by the West Bengal government.

They have also accused the Tamil Nadu government of orchestrating a *"de facto"* ban on the release of the film by issuing a state of red alert.

The court on Friday asked Tamil Nadu to list the steps taken to maintain law and order.

CONTINUED ON
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Hindenburg case: SC may give 3 months to SEBI to finish probe

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said it will use the weekend to pore over the report submitted by an expert committee led by its former judge, Justice Abhay Manohar Sapre, on Hindenburg Foundation's allegations of manipulation of share prices and fraud against the Adani Group before taking a call on a request by the Securities and Exchange Board (SEBI) to grant it a "minimum" of six months to complete its investigation.

"We have received Justice Sapre's report in the Registry... We will read it during the weekend and list your [SEBI] application for Monday," a three-judge Bench addressed Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta and advocate Pratap Venugopal, representing SEBI.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Steep hike of average 70 paise per unit in power tariff across categories

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

On the eve of the State Assembly election results, the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) announced a steep hike in electricity tariff. The commission on Friday approved an average tariff hike of 70 paise per unit across all categories for the financial year 2023-24 --- the the sharpest increase in recent years.

While 57 paise of the increase will be recovered through fixed charges (FC), 13 paise will be recovered through energy charges (EC). The new tariff rates would be applicable from April. The 8.31% increase is expected to bridge a revenue gap of ₹4,457.12 crore.

"To ensure adequate recovery of fixed costs being incurred by the Escoms, KERC has considered gradual increase in fixed/demand charges to all the category of consumers by reducing the energy charges in respect of HT Industries, HT Commercial, LT Domestic and Commercial categories," the KERC officials said after the tariff revision.

For consumers of other categories, there will be a marginal increase in energy charges.

In their proposals submitted to KERC in 2022, the Electricity Supply Companies had proposed an average hike of 139 paise per unit, a 16.83% increase, to cover a revenue deficit of ₹8,951.20 crore.

Citing reasons for the hike, KERC stated that there had been a 13% increase in power purchase costs for FY 24 when compared with FY 23, as the cost of coal and transportation and other costs had all gone up.

Along with a revenue deficit of ₹1,720.11 crore from FY 22, a 20% revision of pay and allowance of employees, a 30% increase in interest and finance charges, and a 15% increase in depreciation were also listed as the reasons for the same. The KERC also noted that the average cost of supply for the State for this financial year had increased to ₹9.12 per unit as against the cost of ₹8.42 per unit in the previous financial year.

RELATED REPORTS
» PAGE 4

Tariff hikes in recent years

Financial year	Increase (in paise)
2017 - 18	48
2018 - 19	53
2019 - 20	33
2020 –21	40
2021- 22	30
2022 – 23	35

- Hike proposed by Escoms – an average increase of 139 paise per unit – **16.83%**
- Hike approved by KERC – an average increase of 70 paise per unit – **8.31%**
- Out of 70 paise – **57 paise** fixed charges and **13 paise** energy charges
- Annual Revenue Requirement proposed by Escoms - **₹62,133.47 crore**
- Annual Revenue Requirement approved by KERC - **₹58,109.95 crore**

How the fortunes of Kannada films were knocked for six

The Indian Premier League, SSLC and pre-university exams, and elections to the Legislative Assembly played a part in the game

Vivek M.V.
BENGALURU

The all-important Indian Premier League (IPL) trophy has remained elusive for the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) for 15 years, but the cricket club's faithful fans have always remained optimistic. The eternal bridesmaids' inconsistent performance in the first half of the ongoing edition of the IPL didn't stop the fans from filling the home venue to the brim and chanting their favourite slogan "*Ee sala cup namde*". (The cup is ours this time).

While the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru witnessed fanatical celebrations, movie halls across Karnataka wore a despondent look in April owing to the undisputable craze for IPL. On-field action outdid drama on the big screen, say representatives from the Kannada film industry.

The Challengers are staring at another exit as the tournament enters its last leg. With just three games remaining for the team, and a playoff spot appearing improbable, RCB fans have begun to look for other mediums for entertainment. But the damage is done, say film industry insiders.

A file photo of cricket fans rooting for their team at the IPL match between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Delhi Capitals at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.

IPL's threat to the Kannada film industry this year was first visible during the release of Vijay N.'s *Gurudev Hoysala*. Released on the eve of IPL (March 30), the cop-drama was important – it was actor Dhananjaya's 25th film and his second with KRG Studios (sister concern of Hombale Films) after the OTT-hit *Rathnan Prapancha*. Yet, the film failed to reach its potential, notwithstanding its decent run in North Karnataka, say industry insiders.

The IPL did pose a challenge to the film, admitted the movie's co-producer Yogi G. Raj. "RCB has the biggest fan base in the tournament. Matches returned to Bengaluru following pandemic-induced restrictions, and this time RCB played a string of games at home in the tournament's first half, unlike previous seasons," he pointed out.

Among RCB's eight matches in April, six were played in Bengaluru. In fact, the team played three consecutive home matches. Hence, there was a sustained curiosity among fans at the start of the tournament, unlike the usual scenario where the buzz drops after initial games before reaching its peak during the business end of the league.

"Even the SSLC and pre-university final exams proved to be deterrents to films released in theatres. *Gurudev Hoysala* did well despite these roadblocks, but it deserved more love," says Yogi.

Raghavendra Stores, despite mixed reviews from critics, got off to a decent start in a long weekend (April 28-May 1). However, the election fever, and IPL's growing momentum restricted the film from being a blockbuster.

The Assembly polls in the State further dented the prospects of the tinsel town. "We have hardly seen 40 % occupancy in theatres for Kannada films in the last two months. People were keen on going for election rallies to make a quick buck," said Muthanna, manager of the popular single-screen Kamakya in Bengaluru. In fact, no Kannada film was released two weeks in the run-up to the voting day (May 10) as filmmakers stayed away taking a big risk.

In general, the Kannada audience believes in the "wait-and-watch" approach to films. If the early reports are negative, they are brutal in cold-shouldering the film. "*Kabzaa* opened well, but after the first weekend, it fell flat at the box office," said K.C.N. Mohan, producer and owner of Bengaluru's iconic single-screen theatre Navrang. *Pentagon*, a five-film anthology, and Prajwal Devaraj's *Veeram*, bit the dust as well.

"It's becoming hard to sustain people's interest in movies," says film writer S. Shyam Prasad. "There are so many distractions for them, and IPL is easily one of the biggest forms of entertainment. The majority of people will opt for that over anything. For that matter, cricket has always been a big threat to films. Before the advent of IPL, Kannada producers wouldn't release their films during the World Cup or important bilateral series," he added.

For years, IPL, coupled with rains, has dented the film business, stated film distributor Bharadwaj. "RCB fans are predominantly Kannadigas. They are the same people who watch Kannada movies. So when they prioritise IPL over films, the industry takes a hit," he said, adding that the election fever gripped the State this year, keeping film personalities occupied with campaigns and other poll-related activities.

MURALI KUMAR K

The Shaili file

Born: **Jan. 7, 2004** (Jhansi, UP)

Height: **171 cm**

Long jump progression (best each year)

2018: 5.94m

2019: 6.01m

2021: 6.48m

2022: 6.41m

2023: 6.76m (personal best)

Honours

2021: Under-20 Worlds silver, Nairobi, 6.59m (wind-assisted); National inter-State champion, Patiala, 6.48m

2022: National Open champion, Bengaluru, 6.41m

2023: Asian indoor championships, fifth, Astana, 6.27m

Shaili Singh poised to leapfrog Anju Bobby George

The 19-year-old long jumper, spotted and moulded by Anju and Robert Bobby George, looks capable of surpassing her mentor's sparkling record

Stan Rayan

Was that seven metres?

That was the big question for many as they watched young long jumper Shaili Singh produce a massive leap at the Indian Grand Prix in Bengaluru last month. Certainly, it did look like the biggest jump the country had ever seen at home.

A couple of seconds later, to everybody's disappointment, the red flag went up.

"Yes, it was 6.90-plus. It was very close, a foul by a couple of centimetres. Even if she jumps 7m, it will not be a surprise for me or Anju," said Robert Bobby George, the head coach at the Anju Bobby High Performance Centre in Bengaluru, who has been coaching Shaili for the last five years.

This means the 19-year-old is very close to Anju's national record (6.83m), set at the 2004 Athens Olympics in a fifth-place finish. A year earlier in Paris, Anju had won a medal (bronze) at the World Championships, the only Indian woman to achieve this feat.

> Shaili can break my record this year itself
>
> **ANJU BOBBY GEORGE**
> Mentor and Worlds bronze medallist

"Shaili can break the record any time, it depends on the day and the mood. This is just the season-opener, she had a good series, everything above 6.50," said Bobby.

Anju, whom Bobby had coached to the 2003 Worlds bronze and who is now the mentor at the Anju Bobby HPC, is confident about it, too. "Shaili can break my record this year itself," said Anju.

Record within reach

In fact, Bobby and his wife Anju had felt that Shaili would break the national record in Bengaluru that day. The teenager's gold-winning jump measured 6.76m.

"Anju and I told her that she had to attempt to break the national record and qualify for the World Championships. That was my target and she made a wonderful effort," said Bobby.

However, although Shaili appears capable of producing big jumps this season, Bobby is not taking any chances.

The automatic qualification standard for the Worlds, in Budapest from August 19, is 6.85m and the 12-month entry doors close on July 30.

So Bobby is hunting for quality competitions to ensure that Shaili makes the cut through the World ranking route if she does not make the automatic standard. There are 36 long jump slots available and Shaili is currently 39th in the 'Road to Budapest' rankings.

With an eye on the Worlds berth, Shaili will be competing in the Seiko Golden Grand Prix – a World Athletics Continental Tour Gold event offering plenty of ranking points – in Yokohama on May 21.

It will be her international outdoor season-opener, and it will bring back plenty of memories for Bobby and Anju.

Anju had won gold in the same meet in 2004, a month after the Athens Olympics. She had shocked the then Olympic champion Tatyana Lebedeva and legendary two-time Olympic champion Heike Drechsler, who was in action in one of her last competitions before retiring.

"We are trying for the Diamond League, only the best get an entry there. She is not there yet, if she gets a good jump in Yokohama, it will be good," said Bobby who first spotted Shaili's potential at the 2017 Junior Nationals in Guntur, where she was fifth with 4.64m.

The young girl, from Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh where her mother took to tailoring to keep the home fires burning, is now No. 4 in this year's World list with her 6.76m. She is also Asia's No. 1 female long jumper and occupies the top rung in the under-20 World list.

Goals for 2023

"The Asian Games [Hangzhou, Sept. 2023] gold and sub-20 in the World ranking are my goals for this year," said Shaili.

Her progression over the last few years has been stunning. And Bobby attributes this year's big jumps to the changes he has made.

"There is a paradigm shift in my training programme altogether and this is going to give results not only for Shaili but for the other athletes also," he said. "We are focusing on key areas. Last year, because of Shaili's [back] injury I could not do that. This time she was ready."

The Anju Bobby Centre now has its own facility at Kengeri, where the 11 SAI National Centre of Excellence athletes, who are coached by Bobby, train. They go to the SAI Centre for strength and conditioning workouts.

"We have shifted the majority of our trainees to our new track in Kengeri. That in itself gives a good advantage, it's a sort of exclusive team track, the ambience, light, aroma, the colour, everything sets the mood for training," explained Bobby. "It imparts positive vibes every time and the athletes are more relaxed."

This is a setting that could throw up another Olympic medal, either in Paris 2024 or in Los Angeles 2028. But the centre – the country's only facility which has a World Championships medallist and the coach who produced that medallist training young athletes – requires more sponsors and funds, and quickly too, for quality equipment and manpower.

"The countdown has begun, we have 14 months left for Paris. Shaili's age is her major advantage. She's a fast learner and a good fighter. But she's still a kid as far as the long jump is concerned at the global level. She is among the youngest long jumpers at the world level where you have the mighty Americans and Europeans. Still, that's an advantage. She will have no fear and could be giving a scare to the others as she keeps improving," said Bobby.

Bobby has tinkered with Shaili's technique and that could be a reason for the big jumps.

Tweaks in technique

"I have made some changes in her technique, she was leaning too far backward and [causing] a hyper-extension of her back that led to injuries. So, I have made some corrections in her body posture and in the body positioning just before take-off," he said.

Anju is excited and proud that the talent she and Bobby spotted and are moulding is now a fine, world-class athlete, one who looks capable of bettering her mentor's sparkling record.

In fact, Shaili seems to be a bit of Anju herself.

"This year, Shaili's speed is very close to what Anju had in her prime. Her relative power is also somewhat equal to Anju. Only thing is, she has to stabilise her technique, get more mature to get not just one jump and for that she has to do a series of competitions," said Bobby.

"She has to get ready for all the travelling, for competitions, for different time zones, different food habits. And then after the competition, when your enthusiasm dies, you have to come back to competitions again.

"She may break the record but it may take Shaili a couple of years more to reach that stature...for everything, understanding the game and game-plan. But Shaili is still young."

Anju came to Bobby at 21, Shaili is an early bird. Bobby started training her at 14 and that's a huge advantage for the young athlete. The long jump, for sure, has many interesting days ahead.

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Novak Djokovic	35	6,775	16
2	Carlos Alcaraz	20	6,770	17
3	Daniil Medvedev	27	5,330	24
4	Casper Ruud	24	5,165	24
5	Stefanos Tsitsipas	24	5,015	21
6	Andrey Rublev	25	4,190	25
7	Holger Rune	20	3,865	26
8	Jannik Sinner	21	3,525	21
9	Taylor Fritz	25	3,380	23
10	Felix Auger-Aliassime	22	3,235	23
11	Karen Khachanov	26	3,025	23
12	Frances Tiafoe	25	2,755	22
13	Cameron Norrie	27	2,680	23
14	Rafael Nadal	36	2,535	14
15	Hubert Hurkacz	26	2,525	23

Top Indians ▸

Sumit Nagal
Rank 256 ▲ 91 spots

Mukund Sasikumar
Rank 372 ▲ 9 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Iga Swiatek	21	9,625	17
2	Aryna Sabalenka	25	7,881	18
3	Jessica Pegula	29	5,300	17
4	Caroline Garcia	29	5,025	25
5	Coco Gauff	19	4,345	18
6	Elena Rybakina	23	4,195	21
7	Ons Jabeur	28	4,116	16
8	Maria Sakkari	27	3,516	23
9	Daria Kasatkina	26	3,505	25
10	Petra Kvitova	33	3,162	16
11	Belinda Bencic	26	2,750	21
12	Veronika Kudermetova	26	2,660	22
13	Barbora Krejcikova	27	2,616	21
14	Karolina Pliskova	31	2,245	23
15	Beatriz Haddad Maia	26	2,206	24

Top Indians ▸

Ankita Raina
Rank 218 ▼ 6 spots

Karman Thandi
Rank 265 ▲ 13 spots

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Man. City	34	26	4	4	89	31	58	82
2	Arsenal	35	25	6	4	83	39	44	81
3	Newcastle	34	18	11	5	61	29	32	65
4	Man. United	34	19	6	9	49	41	8	63
5	Liverpool	35	18	8	9	67	42	25	62
6	Tottenham	35	17	6	12	64	57	7	57
7	Brighton	33	16	7	10	63	45	18	55
8	Aston Villa	35	16	6	13	46	43	3	54
9	Brentford	35	12	14	9	52	45	7	50
10	Fulham	35	14	6	15	50	49	1	48
11	Chelsea	34	11	9	14	34	39	-5	42
12	C. Palace	35	10	10	15	35	46	-11	40
13	Wolves	35	11	7	17	30	50	-20	40
14	Bournemouth	35	11	6	18	37	67	-30	39
15	West Ham	35	10	7	18	38	50	-12	37
16	Forest	35	8	9	18	34	65	-31	33
17	Everton	35	7	11	17	32	53	-21	32
18	Leicester City	35	8	6	21	49	64	-15	30
19	Leeds United	35	7	9	19	44	69	-25	30
20	Southampton	35	6	6	23	31	64	-33	24

Italian Serie A Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Napoli	34	26	5	3	70	23	47	83
2	Juventus	34	20	6	8	52	28	24	66
3	Lazio	34	19	7	8	52	26	26	64
4	Inter Milan	34	20	3	11	62	35	27	63
5	AC Milan	34	17	10	7	55	39	16	61
6	Atalanta	34	17	7	10	56	41	15	58
7	Roma	34	17	7	10	45	33	12	58
8	Fiorentina	34	12	10	12	45	40	5	46
9	Udinese	34	11	13	10	45	41	4	46
10	Bologna	34	12	10	12	43	44	-1	46
11	Monza	34	12	10	12	42	45	-3	46
12	Torino	34	12	10	12	36	39	-3	46
13	Sassuolo	34	12	8	14	41	50	-9	44
14	Empoli	34	9	11	14	31	44	-13	38
15	Salernitana	34	7	14	13	42	56	-14	35
16	Lecce	34	7	10	17	28	41	-13	31
17	Verona	34	7	9	18	28	51	-23	30
18	Spezia	34	5	12	17	28	56	-28	27
19	Cremonese	34	4	12	18	31	59	-28	24
20	Sampdoria	34	3	8	23	20	61	-41	17

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Barcelona	33	26	4	3	60	11	49	82
2	Atletico Madrid	33	21	6	6	60	26	34	69
3	Real Madrid	33	21	5	7	69	32	37	68
4	Real Sociedad	33	18	7	8	43	29	14	61
5	Villarreal	33	16	6	11	47	34	13	54
6	Real Betis	33	15	7	11	40	37	3	52
7	Girona	33	13	8	12	52	46	6	47
8	Athletic Bilbao	33	13	8	12	43	33	10	47
9	Rayo Vallecano	33	12	10	11	40	42	-2	46
10	Osasuna	33	12	8	13	29	35	-6	44
11	Sevilla	33	12	8	13	41	49	-8	44
12	Real Mallorca	33	11	8	14	32	37	-5	41
13	Celta Vigo	33	10	9	14	38	46	-8	39
14	Almeria	33	10	6	17	42	58	-16	36
15	Cadiz	33	8	11	14	26	49	-23	35
16	Real Valladolid	33	10	5	18	30	57	-27	35
17	Valencia	33	9	7	17	36	40	-4	34
18	Getafe	33	8	10	15	30	42	-12	34
19	Espanyol	33	7	10	16	40	56	-16	31
20	Elche	33	3	7	23	25	64	-39	16

German Bundesliga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Bayern	31	19	8	4	83	34	49	65
2	Dortmund	31	20	4	7	73	40	33	64
3	RB Leipzig	31	17	6	8	55	37	18	57
4	Union Berlin	31	16	8	7	44	32	12	56
5	SC Freiburg	31	16	8	7	46	38	8	56
6	Leverkusen	31	14	6	11	54	43	11	48
7	Wolfsburg	31	12	10	9	54	43	11	46
8	Mainz	31	12	9	10	51	46	5	45
9	Eint. Frankfurt	31	11	10	10	51	49	2	43
10	M'gladbach	31	10	9	12	46	48	-2	39
11	Cologne	31	9	11	11	42	49	-7	38
12	Werder Bremen	31	10	5	16	49	60	-11	35
13	FC Augsburg	31	9	7	15	40	55	-15	34
14	Hoffenheim	31	9	5	17	42	52	-10	32
15	Schalke	31	7	9	15	31	59	-28	30
16	Stuttgart	31	6	10	15	39	54	-15	28
17	Bochum	31	8	4	19	33	69	-36	28
18	Hertha Berlin	31	6	7	18	37	62	-25	25

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Marnus Labuschagne	915	937
2	Kane Williamson	883	919
3	Steve Smith	872	947
4	Joe Root	871	923
5	Babar Azam	862	882
6	Travis Head	853	853
7	Usman Khawaja	815	815
8	Daryl Mitchell	792	800
9	Dimuth Karunaratne	783	783
10	Rishabh Pant	766	801

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	R. Ashwin	869	904
2	James Anderson	859	903
3	Pat Cummins	841	914
4	Kagiso Rabada	825	902
5	Shaheen Afridi	787	836
6	Ollie Robinson	785	820
7	Jasprit Bumrah	780	835
8	Nathan Lyon	757	774
9	Ravindra Jadeja	753	899
10	Kyle Jamieson	742	836

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Babar Azam	886	898
2	Rassie van der Dussen	777	796
3	Fakhar Zaman	755	784
4	Imam-ul-Haq	745	815
5	Shubman Gill	738	738
6	David Warner	726	880
7	Virat Kohli	719	911
7	Quinton de Kock	718	813
9	Rohit Sharma	707	885
10	Steve Smith	702	752

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Josh Hazlewood	705	733
2	Mohammed Siraj	691	736
3	Mitchell Starc	686	783
3	Matt Henry	667	691
5	Trent Boult	660	775
6	Rashid Khan	659	806
7	Adam Zampa	652	655
8	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	637	712
9	Shakib Al Hasan	636	717
10	Mohammad Nabi	631	657

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Suryakumar Yadav	906	910
2	Mohammad Rizwan	811	875
3	Babar Azam	756	896
4	Aiden Markram	748	796
5	Rilee Rossouw	724	724
6	Muhammad Waseem	716	716
7	Devon Conway	709	831
8	Dawid Malan	705	915
9	Aaron Finch	680	900
10	Jos Buttler	670	674

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	710	816
2	Fazalhaq Farooqi	692	692
3	Josh Hazlewood	690	806
4	Wanindu Hasaranga	686	797
5	Maheesh Theekshana	684	684
5	Adil Rashid	684	746
7	Adam Zampa	678	743
8	Sam Curran	673	688
9	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	668	745
10	Anrich Nortje	667	695

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M BG-BGE

Can Watkins rekindle Villa's flickering European dream?

The 27-year-old striker had driven the Birmingham club up the Premier League table but a four-game lull has jeopardised chances of a top-six finish. Will the hitman, who has caught the eye of several big clubs, rediscover his touch in front of goal?

Watkins in the Premier League

	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21
	34 GAMES	35 GAMES	37 GAMES
	14 GOALS	11 GOALS	14 GOALS
	6 ASSISTS	2 ASSISTS	5 ASSISTS

Reuters
Agence France-Presse

Sometime last week, news broke that Bayern Munich was having Ollie Watkins watched – the German powerhouse is on the hunt for a new striker and had sent a scout to run the rule over the Aston Villa hitman. It was reportedly part of Bayern's contingency plan in the event of its interest in Tottenham Hotspur captain Harry Kane amounting to nothing.

Watkins has also seemingly caught the eye of the Premier League's top clubs, many of whom have learnt about his qualities while suffering at his hands. With the silly season approaching, the rumour mill has begun to churn furiously – every bit of transfer news must, therefore, be taken with a pinch of salt.

There is also the matter of Villa opening talks with the 27-year-old striker over a new contract: it's not uncommon for stories of other clubs being interested to appear at such times, as player agents attempt to secure the best possible deal for their clients.

But even if Bayern's and the other clubs' interest is only exploratory, it is still a sign that Watkins' form since the World Cup, his profile, versatility and ability appeal to elite teams – an inspiring rise for someone who was plying his trade in the Championship, the division below the Premier League, as recently as 2020.

> I think he's a fabulous, fabulous player... He asks all the questions a defender doesn't want asked
>
> **RIO FERDINAND**
> Former Manchester United defender

A red-hot streak

Watkins has 14 Premier League goals this season, 12 of them coming after the World Cup. The peak in this run of form came a month ago, when he proved too hot to handle for the stingiest defence in England as he scored two goals and set up another in a 3-0 win over Newcastle.

"Newcastle's defence has been one of the best in the league," said former Liverpool striker Peter Crouch, "and for Watkins to pull them in every direction like he did was brilliant." Former Manchester United defender Rio Ferdinand agreed: "I think he's a fabulous, fabulous player... He asks all the questions a defender doesn't want asked."

That brace took Watkins' tally to 11 goals in his 12 previous league games – a phase during which Villa was flying, having won seven of eight games and climbed to sixth on the table, within close points-proximity of Tottenham (fifth), Manchester United (fourth) and Newcastle (third).

Watkins has gone off the boil since then, in terms of scoring. Unsurprisingly, Villa has struggled as well. Since the unstoppable performance against Newcastle in mid-April, Watkins has not found the back of the net in four Premier League matches. Villa has collected just four points from these fixtures, and its hope of making it to Europe next season – the fans were even dreaming of Champions League nights at Villa Park at one stage – is flickering.

Villa is currently eighth, three points behind sixth-placed Tottenham. But Brighton, in seventh, has two games in hand. Finishing fifth guarantees a Europa League berth, but Villa is eight points off that position – and with three games left to play, that route appears unlikely.

No room for error

The other European places go to the winners of the FA Cup (United or Manchester City) and League Cup (United), but if these teams finish in the top five or top six, the next highest-ranked sides will get in. As things stand, sixth place should earn a Europa League spot and seventh a Conference League spot. For a top-seven finish, Villa will need Watkins at his goal-scoring best.

There is no reason why Watkins can't rediscover his touch in front of goal. During his four-game scoreless run, he did not manage a single shot against United but in the other three games he averaged three shots per 90 minutes, roughly his average this season. If he continues getting shots off, he will score, given the amount of time and effort he has devoted to hone his finishing.

Watkins has also flourished under Unai Emery, who has a track record of working well with strikers. The 27-year-old had struggled under Steven Gerrard, but Emery has drawn out Watkins' best. A dinked finish against Nottingham Forest was the perfect confluence of these factors – a widening of his finishing range and the confidence to go for it, which Emery has nurtured.

"I think it shows that I've developed a lot, I've worked a lot on my finishing," Watkins said after that goal. "I've worked hard for these moments. I don't think I'd do that finish at the start of the season or maybe last season, dinking the 'keeper. I'd maybe have tried to go low and it may get saved. I've worked a lot on a variety of finishes and I'm happy to be scoring."

> Ollie has always scored, but he is understanding a little bit more how to attack the spaces and when he has to drop to get the ball. He understands everything as a striker
>
> **UNAI EMERY**
> Aston Villa coach

Watkins has reportedly worked overtime at Villa's training ground, inspired by clips of Emery's former strikers Carlos Bacca (Sevilla), Edinson Cavani (PSG) and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (Arsenal), with all three possessing the dinked finish over the goalkeeper.

Arriving in style

A late bloomer, Watkins has always been well regarded. Having joined Villa for a club record 28 million pounds, he showed just how devastating he can be with a hat-trick inside the opening 39 minutes in a 7-2 mauling of then reigning champion Liverpool in October 2020.

That potential, allied with his commitment to improving under a top coach, has produced a strong 2022-23.

"The performance of Ollie now is fantastic," Emery said last month. "He has always scored, but he is understanding a little bit more how to attack the spaces [and] when he has to drop to get the ball. He understands everything as a striker and is adding a lot of things."

It's an exciting time for Watkins, even if it is slightly dampened by his four-game goalless run. If he finishes the season well, he could fire Villa into Europe; big teams may come in with offers in the summer. England selection, with the Euros set to be played next year, is another realistic target. Wherever the future takes him, what is certain is that Watkins will continue to put in the hard yards so he can keep doing what he loves so much: scoring goals.

GETTY IMAGES

GAME THEORY

Neeraj lays down a marker

Indian javelin ace Neeraj Chopra began his season in style, winning the Doha Diamond League with a world-leading effort of 88.67m. We look at the year's 15 best throws so far and where his Doha effort ranks in his all-time top ten:

NEERAJ'S TOP 10 THROWS (ALL-TIME)

Mark (m)	Venue	Date
89.94	Stockholm	30 Jun 2022
89.30	Turku	14 Jun 2022
89.08	Lausanne	26 Aug 2022
88.67	**Doha**	**05 May 2023**
88.44	Zurich	08 Sep 2022
88.39	Eugene	21 Jul 2022
88.13	Eugene	23 Jul 2022
88.07	Patiala	05 Mar 2021
88.06	Jakarta	27 Aug 2018
87.86	Potchefstroom	28 Jan 2020

JAVELIN: BEST THROWS IN 2023

Mark (m)	Athlete	Venue	Date
88.67	**Neeraj Chopra**	**Doha**	**05 May 2023**
88.63	Jakub Vadlejch	Doha	05 May 2023
88.38	Jakub Vadlejch	Potchef-stroom	18 Apr 2023
85.88	Anderson Peters	Doha	05 May 2023
85.06	Aliaksei Katkavets	Brest	28 Apr 2023
84.33	D.P Manu	Bengaluru	15 Apr 2023
84.27	Keyshawn Strachan	Austin	31 Mar 2023
83.78	Aliaksei Katkavets	Minsk	26 Feb 2023
82.62	Julian Weber	Doha	05 May 2023
82.49	Pavel Sasimovich	Doha	26 Feb 2023
82.21	Ryohei Arai	Tama	01 Apr 2023
82.21	Luiz Mauricio Da Silva	Sao Paulo	30 Apr 2023
82.04	Felise Vahai Sosaia	Melbourne	23 Feb 2023
81.81	Rohit Yadav	Bengaluru	15 Apr 2023
81.67	Andrian Mardare	Doha	05 May 2023

SOURCE: WORLD ATHLETICS

PICTURE THIS

JERRY COOKE/CORBIS VIA GETTY IMAGES

Equine icon

Last weekend's Kentucky Derby marked the 50th anniversary of one of horse racing's most famous moments: Secretariat's stunning victory at Churchill Downs, the first time the Derby was run in under two minutes (1:59 2/5 seconds).

Secretariat, with Ron Turcotte up, also claimed the Preakness and the Belmont Stakes in 1973, becoming the ninth Triple Crown winner, and the first since Citation in 1948.

Horses only get one shot at the Triple Crown in their lifetimes — all three races are restricted to three-year-olds — and so it's a rare, revered feat, achieved only 13 times in its 148-year history.

What makes Secretariat's achievement even more astonishing is that the record times the thoroughbred set in all three races half a century ago still stand!

It's no surprise that Secretariat — also known as Big Red and widely regarded as one of the greatest racehorses of all time — has transcended the sport and become a cultural icon.

More than 250 streets in the USA are reportedly named after him, more than any human athlete, and he has been immortalised in books, movies and songs.

CBSE results: Bengaluru region bags second highest pass percentage

It secures pass percentage of 98.64 in class XII and 99.18 in class X CBSE examination this year

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The results of class X and XII of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) were announced on Friday and the Bengaluru region secured the second place with a region-wise pass percentage of 98.64 in class XII and 99.18 in class X exams.

This year too, Trivandrum stood first in the list with a pass percentage of 99.91 in class X and class XII. Bengaluru region came second, followed by Chennai region in the third place with 99.14% pass percentage in class X and 97.40% in class XII.

Compared to previous year, class XII pass percentage increased by 0.48 in Bengaluru region. Class X results dipped by 0.04%. Last year, it was 98.16% and 99.22%, respectively, in class XII and X.

Sanath Koundilia, State topper, class X, 99.5%

Sanath wants to pursue research in the field of applied mathematics. "My parents are from Mysuru and both are software professionals in multinational organisations. My parents, grandparents, and school teachers are my true motivation and with their blessings, I didn't face any issue while studying. I love mathematics and I would like to take up engineering and do research in applied mathematics," he said.

Susmit Roy, 98.4%, topper in science stream, class XII

Coming from a family that leans towards scientific research, Susmit Roy wants to become a scientist just like his father. He wishes to pursue B.Sc at Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, and at the same time, he is also preparing to crack JEE advance exam. "NCERT textbooks and solving model question papers made it easy to score. I was inspired by the works of Swami Vivekananda and Richard Feynman," he said.

Aditya Vivek Gulavani, class XII topper, 99.2%

Aditya plans to pursue B.Com Honours degree and is preparing for CUET. He wants to become an investment banker. He credits studying for four hours a day two months before the exam and admits that he studied for eight hours a few days before the exam. "I faced anxiety during the course of study as I shifted from IGCSE to CBSE. Entrepreneurs Warren Buffet and Dhirubhai Ambani are my inspiration," he said.

Soumya Ramaiaya, class XII topper in humanities, 98%,

"I am pursuing psychology and hope to become a successful forensic psychologist. I am planning to pursue higher education abroad. I did not have a set timetable or concrete hours of study. My method of studying was lenient, but I was always on schedule. For me, studying everyday was a leisure activity; I know it's kind of amusing to say that," said Soumya.

Anantharaman Subramanyam Iyer, 98.4%, class XII topper in science stream

Anantharaman Subramanyam Iyer wants to pursue computer science at Georgia Institute of Technology. "With entrance exams for almost everything these days, its important to not get caught up in simply trying to ace them and it is also important to understand the subject outside the examination perspective," he said.

Diya Srinivasan, NPS-HSR, 98%, topper in humanities

"I wish to pursue economics," said Diya. When asked about her preparations for the exam, she said: "I don't study based on the measure of time. I give myself goals that I wish to accomplish by the end of the day. These goals are a number of topics I want to have studied. My teachers helped me push myself to realise higher potentials. They were encouraging and supportive."

भारतीय सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान कोट्टयम
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY KOTTAYAM
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Admissions for the Ph.D. Programme
(Self-Financing/ Sponsored/Scholarship Holder/ External Registrants) beginning from August 2023

Indian Institute of Information Technology Kottayam invites applications for admission for Ph.D. Programmes beginning from **August 2023.**

Subjects: Computer Science and Engineering/Electronics and Communication Engineering/Mathematics.

Eligibility for Ph.D. Admission:

(a) Master's degree in Computer Science & Engineering/Information Technology/Computer Science/Computer Applications/ Electronics and Communication Engineering/Electrical Engineering/Mathematics or equivalent area with a minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of either 6.5 on a 10-point scale or 60% of marks in appropriate branches.

(b) Four-year Bachelor's degree in Computer Science & Engineering/Information Technology/Electronics and Communication Engineering/Electrical Engineering or equivalent in a relevant area from any IITs, NITs, IIITs, etc. with a minimum CGPA of either 8 on a 10-point scale or 75% of marks. Such students will be awarded both MS and Ph.D. degrees on completion of Ph.D. Programme without any exit option during the programme.

Only online applications will be accepted. Online application forms and detailed instructions are available at https://www.iiitkottayam.ac.in/#!/phd_home.

Last Date of application (Ph.D.): **31st May 2023 [17:00 IST]**
Advt No. IIITK/01/12/2023/188 dated 11.05.2023
sd/- Registrar

SSLC exam: THiS institutions achieve excellent results

Sudhindr A.B.
BENGALURU

The schools that are part of The Hindu in School (THiS) programme achieved excellent results in the SSLC examinations. The results were declared on Monday.

Sri Anupama Vidya Mandir, Peenya 2nd Stage, achieved 100% pass for the ninth consecutive year. In all, 49 students appeared and six secured distinction. Krishna Kumar Jha, who scored 620 marks, emerged the topper.

Carmel High School, Basaveshwaranagar, achieved 100% pass for the fifth consecutive year. In all 83 students appeared, and 21 secured distinction. Manu M., who scored 601 marks, was the topper.

In SBIOA Public School, Basaveshwaranagar, 46 students appeared and 15 secured distinction. Gowri Manohari, who scored 97.84%, was the topper.

Madonna School, Udayanagar, achieved 100% pass results for the 17th consecutive year. In all, 141 students appeared 85 secured distinction. S. Smaran, who scored 624 marks, emerged the topper.

In Lourdes High School, Nandini Layout, 124 students appeared and 25 secured distinction. L. Rachetha, who scored 607 marks, stood first.

Brilliant School, Kundalahalli, achieved 100% pass results for the fifth consecutive year. In all, 28 students appeared and five secured distinction. Preksha N P., by scoring 617 marks emerged the topper.

In Apollo Aksharadhama, Sanjeevininagar, 56 students appeared and 37 secured distinction. Kavya H. Desai, who secured 612 marks, was the topper.

In Apollo Public School, Hegganahalli Cross, 161 students appeared and 76 secured distinction. Karan Kumar S., who scored 616 marks, emerged the topper.

In St. John's High School, Papareddy Palya, 51 students appeared and 11 secured distinction. Dhanush Shetty D., who scored 602 marks, was the topper.

Prohibitory orders clamped, sale of liquor banned today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Police Commissioner C.H. Pratap Reddy imposed prohibitory orders in Bengaluru from 6 a.m. to midnight on Saturday, when votes of Assembly elections will be counted. Police have also banned sale of liquor in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Counting of votes in 32 Assembly constituencies of Bengaluru Urban and Rural districts will be done in five centres - Mount Carmel College, Vasanth Nagar; St. Joseph's Indian High School, Vittal Mallya Road; BMS Ladies' College, Basavanagudi; SSMRV College, Tilak Nagar; and Akash International School, Devanahalli.

The traffic police have imposed restrictions and banned parking around counting centres. Vehicles will not be allowed on the road where the counting centre is located. Police have provided designated parking spots for party workers and other people who gather at these centres on Saturday – Palace grounds for Mount Carmel College; Kanteerava stadium for St. Joseph's Indian High School; Shalini ground and R.V. College for SSMRV College; National College Basavanagudi and Kohinoor ground for BMS Ladies' College, and Devanahalli Kote Cross Junction for Akash School.

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Domestic tariff slabs reduced from 4 to 2 for Bescom consumers

To rationalise and simplify tariffs, Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission announced that urban and rural categories will be merged into a single category under which rural consumers can avail themselves of a rebate of 30 paise per unit

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC), on May 12, Friday, announced non-telescopic tariff slabs for the domestic consumers of Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom), under which the number of tariff slabs would be reduced from four to two. However, the same would not be applicable to LT industrial consumers.

New structure

Under the new structure, the first slab would be from 0 to 100 units, for which fixed charges would be ₹110 per kilowatt (kW) up to 50 kW and energy charges would be 475 paise per kW. The second slab would be from zero to all units (every additional kW above 50 kW), and the fixed charges for the same would be ₹210, and energy charges would be 700 paise per kW.

In the existing tariff structure, those who consumed 0-50 units were paying a fixed charge of ₹100, while those who consumed 51-100 units were paying ₹110. With the new changes, the tariff would be uniform for the consumers until 100 units. While Bescom, in its proposal, had asked for slabs to be reduced from four to three, the commission has simplified it into two categories.

Single category

In order to rationalise and simplify tariffs, the commission has announced that urban and rural categories will be merged into a single category under which rural consumers can avail themselves of a rebate of 30 paise per unit.

The Discounted Energy Rate Scheme (DERS), which was applicable only to HT consumers before, has now been extended to LT industries and LT commercial installations with a sanctioned load of 50 kW and above, the commission said. For the same, energy charges of ₹5 per unit, as opposed to existing charges of ₹6 per unit, have been approved by the KERC. The 50 paise rebate, which was being provided to micro and small industries, will also be continued for another year. The tariff for "time of day" will remain unchanged this year.

Among other highlights of this year's tariff revision, the commission has announced that to encourage the use of electric vehicles, the energy charges at EV charging stations had been reduced from ₹5 per unit to ₹4.5 per unit.

Incentives withdrawn

The commission has withdrawn incentives given to consumers opting for an Electronic Clearing System (ECS), which is 0.25% of the bill amount, as well as the 50 paise per unit solar water heater rebate.

Bescom has made the installation of solar water heaters mandatory in all residential buildings with a built-up area of 600 sq.ft and above constructed on sites measuring 1,200 sq.ft and above falling within the limits of municipal/ corporations and Bangalore Development Authority.

The commission said many consumers in the public hearing suggested to withdraw the solar rebate as any rebate extended to any particular consumer is to be borne by other consumers in the tariff.

Existing tariff structure for domestic consumers of Bescom

Load	Slab	Fixed charges (in ₹)	Energy charges (in paise/kWh)
First kW	0-50 units	100	415
Every additional kW up to 50 kW	51-100 units	110	560
Every additional kW above 50 kW	101-200 units	175	715
	Above 200 units		820

New tariff structure approved by KERC for domestic consumers of Bescom

Load	Slab	Fixed charges	Energy charges
Per kW up to 50 kW	0-100 units	110	475
Every additional kW above 50 kW	0-All units	210	700

Portal for PPA details

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The KERC has directed the Escoms to set up a portal to maintain the details of PPAs executed and approved by the competent authorities to monitor the terms and conditions of the PPAs and also to regulate the payment of power purchase bills online.

> We welcome the continuation of the Special Incentive Scheme for HT Industries. We also welcome the continuation of the reduction of 50 paise per unit for MSME industries. However, we are of the view that an increase in fixed charges and demand charges will have an impact on the manufacturing cost and push up raw material prices. This does not augur well for the manufacturing sector.
>
> **B.V. GOPAL REDDY,**
> president, FKCCI

> It was not appropriate for Bescom to increase the electricity tariff by 70 paise per unit after elections. This level of hike in tariff will be a burden on the common people as well as industrialists. We need to hold talks with the power department on it after deliberations.
>
> **P.C. RAO,**
> president,
> Bruhat Bengaluru Hoteliers Association

Linking R.R numbers of IP sets with Aadhaar mandatory

In a new set of directives given to the Escoms, KERC has said that the companies should link R.R. numbers of IP sets with the Aadhaar numbers of the consumers. The commission has said that the same should be implemented within six months, and upon failure, the subsidy from the government shall not be released for those consumers.

Don't block ingress and egress of shopkeeper on Gandhi Bazaar, HC tells BBMP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the BBMP not to block the ingress and egress of a shopkeeper on Gandhi Bazaar main road in Basavanagudi while implementing the Gandhi Bazaar redevelopment project.

A Vacation Bench of Justice T.G. Shivashankare Gowda passed the interim order on May 11 on a petition filed by L. Gundu Rao, a shopkeeper who is running a garment shop on Gandhi Bazaar main road.

Redevelopment plan

Petitioner had questioned the legality of the redevelopment plan, which reduces the width of the existing 100 ft main road to merely 23 ft by increasing the width of the footpath on either side of the road to 40 ft and 35 ft, respectively. The petitioner has contended that increasing the width of the footpath and reducing the width of the road is contrary to the norms of Indian Road Congress.

The move to increase the width of the footpath to allow hawkers/street vendors would not only result in a violation of the High Court's order to keep footpaths clean and free for pedestrian movement but also impacts the business of the petitioner. Lack of movement of vehicles of shoppers on the main road due to a reduction in the width of the road would cause monetary loss to the petitioner and, similarly, shopkeepers, it has been contended in the petition.

The petitioner has sought a direction to the BBMP not to increase the width of the footpath from his shop.

In two other petitions filed by Basavanagudi Vartakara Mandali and B.R. Gururaj, who has a residential building on Gandhi Bazaar main road on BBMP's redevelopment project, the court, in its April 21 interim orders had recorded the BBMP's statement that the access to the residential buildings, including for movement of two-wheelers and four wheeler vehicles, would not impact due to the implementation of the project.

The court, in its April 21 interim order, had directed the BBMP to place on record a plan indicating the access which is provided to the individual houses of the petitioner. However, the court had made it clear that this interim order does not apply to commercial shops and/or businesses which are being carried on in Gandhi Bazaar but is restricted to residential houses. Now the court will hear all the three petitions together on May 26.

Rakhi's Sawant's husband accused of making calls to rape survivor from jail

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Actor Rakhi Sawant's husband Adil Khan Durrani, who is lodged in Mysuru jail as an undertrial, has been accused of make calls to the rape survivor to give a statement that she has no objection to his release on bail. Odanadi Seva Samsthe, an NGO, said the accused, who is facing charges of raping an international student from Iran while she was studying in Mysuru, had allegedly made more than 15 calls to the survivor from Mysuru jail seeking her cooperation in securing bail

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients **Smt. Saraswati N Murthy W/o Narasimha Murthy. K, and her son Sri Samuel Nikhil** are intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned here under from Sri. B. Prabhakaran S/o Late A. Bhagyanathan, residing at No.68/1, "Sai Enclave" Banjara Layout, Om Shakthi Nagar, Kalkere, Bangalore-560043, for valuable sale consideration.

If any person/s having any claim, right, title, interest what so ever over the Schedule property may forward his/her/their objections in writing with supporting documents to the undersigned **within 7 (SEVEN)** days from the date of publication of this notice failing which it will be deemed that, there is no claims, right, title or interest from anybody except seller and my client will proceed with the completion of purchase transaction and will get registered the absolute sale deed of schedule property in his name.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the **residential vacant site bearing No.9, Katha No.617, Formed out of Property No.35/4, (formed in Old Sy. No.35/4, New Sy. No.35/9 and 35/10), Situated at Maralukunte Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore.**, measuring East to West 30 feet, North to South 50 feet, in all measuring 1500 square feet and bounded on:- **East by :** Road, **West by:** Site No.10, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Site No.8.

SRI RAMESH BABU R, Advocate
No.2, Mourya Mansion, 1st floor, 1st Cross, 1st Main Gandhinagar, Bangalore-560002.

GOVT. OF MAHARASHTRA
Public Works (South) Division, Pune - 411 001
Phone No. 020/26121765
Web- www.mahapwd.gov.in & e-mail- integratedpune.ee@mahapwd.gov.in

E-TENDER NOTICE NO.07 FOR 2022-2023

Sealed Online **B-1 Tender Format** Tender_2_is/are Invited By The Executive Engineer, Public Works (South) Division, Pune - 411 001. (Telephone No. 26121765) Invites bids for Given works from Registered as well as Unregistered contractor in **B-1** As per Maharashtra Government, Public Work Department G.R. No. CAT/2017/Pra.Kra-08/Bldg-2, dt. 27/9/2018 and Public Work Deparment Matralaya Mumbai Circular No. CAT/2017/Pra.Kra-08/Bldg-2, dt. 22/10/2018 &19/01/2021

Bids document can be downloaded from website **https://mahatenders.gov.in.** Executive Engineer reserves all rights to accept or reject bids without assigning any reasons. Conditional bids will not be accepted.

The detailed Tender Notice can be is available on
1. Web- **www.mahapwd.gov.in (Only Tender Notice)**
2. **https://mahatenders.gov.in (Details of Tender Notice)**

(Any changes in the NIT will be Corrigendum's published on above website)

(A.A.Pawar)
Executive Engineer,
Public Work (South) Division,
Pune 411 001.

DGIPR/2023/2024/685

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer, P.W. (North) Division, Dhule-424001
E-TENDER NOTICE NO.02 / 2023-2024

Online Tenders (e-tender) in " B-1 " form for the 01 (One) works are invited by the Executive Engineer, P.W. (North) Division, Dhule, (Phone no. 02562-288763) Government of Maharashtra Electronic Tender Management http://mahatenders.gov.in from any bidder who satisfy the qualifying criteria.

As per above tender notice, 01 (One) works, detail tender information will be available at http://mahatenders.gov.in and can be download from 12/05/2023 at. 18:00 hrs to 06/06/2023 at 17:45 hrs.

Prebid of Above Work on 26/05/2023 Time 12.00 Hours in the office of the Chief Engineer, P.W. Region, Nashik. Opening of above work On 08/06/2023 Time 11.00 Hours (If possible) in the office of the Superintending Engineer, P.W. Circle, Dhule

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
P.W. (North) Division, Dhule

DGIPR/2023/2024/674

Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation Ltd (MTDC),
(A Govt. of Maharashtra Undertaking)
Mafatlal House, 1stfloor, H. T. Parekh Marg, 169, BackbayReclamation, Mumbai 400020 Phone 022-41580992 /022-41580997

E-Tender Notice (Online 30)

Request for Proposal (RFP) are invited by the Managing Director, MTDC Ltd, Mumbai from eligible Contractors as mentioned in Detailed Tender Notice for below mentioned works.

Sr.No	Name of Work	Cost of Works(In Lakhs)
1	Construction of Tourism Development Works for Swatantryaveer Savarkar Theme Park at Bhagur, Dist.Nashik Maharashtra. (Second Call)	RFP

E Tender Scheedule

1	Download start and Submission date of E-Tender from Website.	Download From.12/05/2023 @11.00 hrs. To 19/05/2023 @18.00 hrs.
2	Submission of Hard Copy of e-tender document.	After 19/05/2023@18.00 hrs. and on or before 22/05/2023@16.00 hrs.
3	Opening Date of Bid	On 22/05/2023 @16.00 hrs (if possible)
4	Corrigendum	Corrigendum/Further notices in regards to above tender will be given Online only.

1. http://MTDC.co
2.http://mahatenders.gov.in

Sign/-
Executive Engineer
MTDC Ltd, Mumbai

DGIPR/2023/2024/716

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, P V JOSEPH BENNY, R/at No. 102, 2nd Main, Maruti Nagar, Yelahanka , Bangalore – 64, have changed my name from Joseph Benny to P V Joseph Benny for all his future purposes by affidavit dated 11-05-2023, sworn before notary B.Seshagiri, Bangalore - 43

I, MARIA DELSY. D wife of Elil Kumar. S residing at No.2-42-2, 1st Floor, 3rd B Cross, Anandapura, T C Palya, K.R. Puram, Bengaluru - 560036 states that my son's correct name is E Nithin the same mentioned in Aadhar, but in St. Anthony Church records it has been mentioned wrongly as Nickson Harrics, this affidavit sworn before notary C.Sasikala for correction of my son's name as E Nithin in records of St.Anthony Church document , T.C. Palya, Bengaluru also in Baptism register of the church.

I, SRUSHTI Avinash Kadam, Resident of- No.1029 'A' Block Sahakarnagar, Bangalore- 560092. have changed my name from Srushti Kadam to Srushti Avinash Kadam vide Affidavit dated: 12-03-2023 before Notary K.V.Nanjaiah, Bangalore - 560092

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Geetha B. W/o M. B. Rudramuni, aged about 45 yrs, R/@ No. 245, 4th Main, Vijaya Bank Layout, Billekahalli Post,Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore-76. Here by declare that I have changed My name from **Geetha B.** to **Geetha Rudramuni** in my future records, deeds, writings, proceedings, transactions, private as well as upon all occasions whatsoever vide affidavit Dt.11.05.2023 sworn before Advocate and Notary K.V. Mani, Bangalore.

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LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL- II, AT BENGALURU
4th Floor, Telephone House Building, Raja Bhavan Road, BENGALURU - 560 001
IN THE MATTER OF O. A. NO. 1219/2022

Between :
ICICI Bank Ltd. ...Applicant
Versus
Quadra Point Brand Service Pvt. Ltd. and Others
...Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED TO DEFENDANT UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993 BY PAPER PUBLICATION

DEFENDANTS:
1. Quadra Point Brand Services Private Limited, No. 5/1, Flat No. F-3, 3rd Floor, Rich Homes, Richmond Road, Next to Sonata Software, Bangalore- 560025. CIN:- U74900KA2015PTC080028 PAN NO: AAACQ3829J Giridhar@quadra_point.com
2. Giridhar Rukmangada, S/o. Rukmangada, Aged about 45 Years, Residing at K 1104, Brigade Gateway Apartments, Dr Rajkumar Road, Next to Orion Mall, Malleshwaram West, Bengaluru- 560055. Pan No. ADHPR8269F Phone No. 9880724479

WHEREAS the Applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institution Act,1993 against you for recovery of a sum of Rs.39,68,809.31/- (Rupees Thirty-Nine Lakhs Sixty-Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Nine and Thirty-One Paise Only) together with current and future interest, cost and other reliefs.

You are hereby, required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of this summons or on 19 /05/ 2023 at 11.00 A.M. in person or by pleader/Advocate duly instructed as to why the reliefs prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal on this 25th April, 2023.

By order of the Tribunal
Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Bengaluru

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LVIII ADDL.CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-59)
O.S NO. 6878/2021

Between :
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at: Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007 and branch office at: 4/10, Mythree tower, Bommanahalli Hosur main road, Bengaluru-560068 through its Authorised representative.
Mr. Rohith Ali M ...Plaintiff
And :
M/s. Swathi V ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
Ms. Swathi V,
D/o. Palluru Vasu,
Aged About 33 Years,
R/at No. 8, 5th Main, 1st C Cross, Near Kaveri School, Kathriguppe Main Road, Vivekananda Nagar, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangaluru- 560085.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of Rs. 5,24,828.90/- along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the The LVIII Addl. City Civil and Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-59), in person or by a pleader, on the 7th day of July, 2023 at 11:00 A.M. to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex- Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 04th day of May 2022 at Bangalore.

By Order of the Court
Assistant Registrar
Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners
Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru -01

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-61)
O.S. No. 6873/2022

Between
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at: Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara-390007 having its head office at and Zonal office at 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068 And also having branch at MG Road, Bengaluru through its Authorised representative Mr. Rohith Ali M. ...Plaintiff
And
Mr. Gandham Anurag
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
Mr. Gandham Anurag
S/o Chandra Mohan Gandham
Aged about 29 years
R/at- No. 308 Badra Apartment, Block B FLR, Cosmos Mall, Brooke Field, Bangalore- 560037

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 2,51,009 (Rs. 1,88,780.82/-** in loan Account **LPBNG00035441774 + Rs. 62,229.53/-** in Loan Account **LPBNG00035679526)** along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru **(C.C.H-61),** in person or by a pleader, on the day of **23.05.2023** at **11:00 AM** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte. Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 12th day of April 2023.

By Order of the Court
Assistant Registrar
Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners
Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru -01

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Form No.INC-26
Before the (Central Government)
Regional Director South East Region
Ministry of Corporate Affairs
In the matter of sub-section(4) of Section13 of Companies Act,2013 and clause(a) of sub-rule(5) of rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014
AND In the matter of
Flixbus India Private Limited having its registered office at HD-009, WeWork Embassy Tech Village, Block - L, Devarabisanahalli, Outer Ring Rd, Bellandur, Bangalore, Karnataka– 560103, India Having CIN: U72100KA2020FTC132764
..... *Applicant / Petitioner*

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general meeting held on February 2, 2023 to enable the company to change its Registered Office from "State of Karnataka" to "State of Haryana".

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may delivereither on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director, South East Region at the address 3rd Floor, Corporate Bhavan, Bandlaguda, Nagole, Tattiannaram Village, Hayat Nagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad-500068, Telangana, within Fourteen days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant / petitioner company at its registered office at HD-009, WeWork Embassy Tech Village, Block-L, Devarabisanahalli, Outer Ring Rd, Bellandur, Bangalore, Karnataka – 560103, India.

For **Flixbus India Private Limited**
Sd/-
Dt: 12/05/2023; Surya Khurana
Place: Bangalore Director (DIN:10111715)

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(6) (a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014
AND
In the matter of **AIKHYA IMPEX PRIVATE LIMITED** having its registered office **TF 03 SOWPARNIKA CHANDRAKANTHALI CHAMBENAHALLI, VSARJAPURA RD, SOMPURA GATE BANGALORE KA 562125**, Petitioner

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting/ Extra-ordinary general meeting held on 27.06.2022 to enable the company to change Its Registered office from **"State of KARNATAKA" to "State of TAMILNADU"**

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Branch officer, Company Law Board, South East Region, TF 03 SOWPARNIKA CHANDRAKANTHALI CHAMBENAHALLI, VSARJAPURA RD, SOMPURA GATE BANGALORE KA 562125 within Fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

Address: TF 03 SOWPARNIKA CHANDRAKANTHALI CHAMBENAHALLI, VSARJAPURA RD, SOMPURA GATE BANGALORE KA 562125

For AIKHYA IMPEX PRIVATE LIMITED
SHANMUGAM ASHWINI
Date : 13.05.2023 **(DIN: 08612778)**
Place : Bangalore **Director**

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29th National Conference

ALL INDIA BANK EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

At Mumbai - 13th to 15th May, 2023

the Birth Centenary
of
our unforgettable leader

H.L. Parvana
(3rd November, 1923 – 2023)

Conference Theme:

Defend Bank Nationalisation- Defeat De-unionisation

Welcome address: Shri. P. Sainath
(Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for journalism)
Chairman, Reception Committee

Inauguration: Com. Amarjeet Kaur
General Secretary, All India Trade Union Congress
Vice President, World Federation of Trade Unions

Chief Guest : Com. Pambis Kyritsis,
General Secretary, World Federation of Trade Unions

Special Guests:
Com. Sukhdev Singh, Farmers' leader
Com. S.K. Bandlish, Convener, United Forum of Bank Unions

Special greetings by:
Mrs. Supriya Sule, Member of Parliament, NCP
Shri. Kumar Ketkar, Member of Parliament, Congress
Com. Binoy Viswam, Member of Parliament, CPI
Shri. Arvind Sawant, Member of Parliament, Shiv Sena (T)

Greetings by:
Leaders of UFBU, AIBOA, AILICEF, GIEAAIA, AIBRF

Greetings by Fraternal Delegation from
Bangladesh, Brazil, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nepal, Palestine, Sri Lanka, Syria, Belarus

Presided over by:
Com. Rajen Nagar, President, AIBEA
At 4-00 PM on Saturday, the 13th May, 2023
At Com. Suresh Dhopeshwarkar Manch,
Sri Shanmukhanand Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi Auditorium,
Com. Harbanslal Marg (Flank Road), Sion East, Mumbai, 400022

D.R. TULJAPURKAR
SECRETARY, RECEPTION COMMITTEE

C.H. VENKATACHALAM
GENERAL SECRETARY

Red Salutes
To
COM. PRABHAT KAR
The architect of AIBEA

Born : 13-10-1910 – Died : 27-11-1984

General Secretary, AIBEA : 1953 to 1980
President, AIBEA : 1980 to 1984 till his death
President AIBOA: 1981 to 1984 till his death
Member of Parliament : 1957 to 1967

We are indebted to him for ever

Struggle for Nationalisation of Banks
By All India Bank Employees' Association - AIBEA
Today it is our duty to defend Public Sector Banks
Let us Strengthen Public Sector Banks

Banks in 1947 : AIBEA was founded on 20th April, 1946, a year prior to independence of our country. At the time of Independence in 1947, there were 648 Commercial Banks, comprising 97 Scheduled and 551 non-Scheduled Banks. The number of offices of the banks stood at 2987 with total deposits of Rs.1080 Crores and the advances at Rs.475 Crores.

The Indian Banking was entirely in the hands of the private sector. In addition to the Reserve Bank of India, there were five big banks, each holding public deposits aggregating Rs.100 Crores and more viz., Central Bank of India Ltd., Punjab National Bank Ltd., Bank of India Ltd., Bank of Baroda Ltd. and United Commercial Bank Ltd. All other scheduled commercial banks, which were also in the private sector, had regional character. Many of them held deposits of less than Rs.50 Crores. Even the Reserve Bank of India was not completely owned by the State until it was nationalized in terms of the Reserve Bank of India (transfer to Public Ownership) Act, 1948.

Post-independence : Independence brought many changes into the economic activity and the sphere of banking was not an exception to this. The deposits of the scheduled commercial banks constituted nearly 87% of the total deposits and the share of non-scheduled banks was a mere 6%. Despite its number, the Scheduled Commercial Banks dominated the banking industry by capturing the lion's share of business. Many banks failed after independence due to partition of the country. The first and foremost task before the RBI was to build a sound banking base in order to achieve economic development.

Prior to independence, the role of commercial banks in India was confined to providing vehicle for the community's savings and attending to the credit needs of only certain selected and limited segments of the economy. It was expected of the commercial banks soon after the independence to boost the economy by extending credit to the needy sector like agriculture, small and medium industries, artisans, self-employed etc.

The issue of bank failure in some measure was addressed by the Banking Companies Act, 1949 (which was later renamed as Banking Regulation Act). But, it was only to a limited extent. The Act aimed at protecting the interests of the depositors and covered various aspects like organisation and management, audit and supervision of banking companies. This enactment giving powers to RBI did boost the confidence of the general public about their savings in commercial banks.

The Banking Companies Act of 1949 conferred on the Reserve Bank extensive powers for banking supervision as the central banking authority of the country. But, since the bank failure continued even after independence, even though it was considerably reduced after the enactment of the Banking Companies Act, in order to protect public savings, the need was felt to amalgamate the insolvent banks with stronger banks.

Amendment to Banking Regulations Act: Accordingly, during 1950s, efforts were turned towards putting in place an enabling legislation for consolidation, compulsory amalgamation and liquidation of banks. It took more than a decade since 1950, to enact Banking Companies (Amendment) Act, 1961, to clarify, supplement the provisions of Sec.45 of the Banking Companies Act, which related to compulsory reconstruction or amalgamation of banks. AIBEA played its due role in ensuring supplementary provisions to Sec.45 of the Banking Companies Act was introduced due to effective debates in Parliament by the then General Secretary of AIBEA, Com. Prabhat Kar.

The legislation enabled amalgamation of more than two banking companies by a single scheme. Between 1954 and 1968, several banks were amalgamated or otherwise ceased to function or their liabilities and assets transferred to other banks. The decade of 1960s also witnessed significant consolidation in the banking industry with 566 commercial banks consisting of 92 scheduled and 474 non-scheduled banks, functioning in the 1950s getting reduced to 89 by 1969, of which 73 were scheduled and the remaining 16 were non-scheduled.

Rural Credit Survey : The Reserve Bank of India, through the powers vested on it, announced in August, 1951, its decision to sponsor a country-wide Survey in order to obtain a factual basis for the formation of long-term policy in the sphere of rural credit. The Rural Credit Survey revealed that the role of Cooperatives in the Rural Credit was a mere 3.1%, with more than 70% of rural and agricultural credit concentrated on moneylenders and the rest from other sources such as traders and landlords. This was the most startling revelation.

SBI is born : Hence, the Government of India and the RBI surprised by these facts about lack of rural credit from cooperatives and formal sources like banks had enacted the State Bank of India Act, 1955, under which RBI took control of the Imperial Bank of India, which was renamed as State Bank of India (SBI). Later, in 1959, the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, was passed enabling SBI to takeover eight princely-State-associated banks as its subsidiary. The conversion of the Imperial Bank of India into State Bank of India and the constitution of the Associate Banks accelerated the pace of extending banking facilities all over the country.

The object of formulation of the State Bank of India from 1st July, 1955, by acquiring the assets and liabilities of the then Imperial Bank of India, was to extend the banking facilities on a larger scale, particularly in the rural and semi-urban areas and also to shift its focus from 'credit worthiness' to 'purpose worthiness'.

A new branch licensing policy was designed in 1962 to address the issue of expansion of banking facilities in unbanked areas by examining the data on population per bank office. Agriculture Refinance Corporation was set up in 1963 to refinance Central Land Mortgage Banks, State Cooperative Banks and Scheduled Commercial Banks. In 1964, ceiling on interest rates on both deposits and advances was imposed to avoid unhealthy competition in the sector. Credit Authorisation Scheme was introduced in 1965 to control credit flow to the big borrowers. Under this scheme, banks had to take prior permission of RBI to sanction any fresh working capital limits above the prescribed norms.

The planned economy commenced in our country in 1950 and it was expected that the scheduled and non-scheduled commercial banks would lend to the needs of the common man, uplift their living conditions and being an agrarian economy, to extend more credit to agriculture. Even though the bank branches of commercial banks from 1952 to 1967 increased, the branch expansion in rural areas varied between 13.1% to 17.9%, 43.3% to 50% in semi-urban areas and 33.5% to 38.9% in urban areas.

The population per branch declined from 136000 in 1951 to 92000 in 1960 and further to 65000 in 1967. But, the pattern of branch expansion remained unchanged. **Most glaring aspect was that the credit to agriculture increased by a mere 0.1% between 1951 and 1967** and in contrast to this, credit to certain industries increased from 34% in 1951 to 64.3% in 1967.

Mahalanobis Committee report : In February, 1964, Mahalanobis Committee report was published. This report was the first official disclosure of the existence of a high concentration of wealth and income in Indian Society. The report stated that, "The wealth of the largest 20 industrial houses and groups had grown enormously in the private corporate sector during the period from 1951-1958."

The Mahalanobis report also brought out the major element of control of the industrial houses over the top 14 privately owned scheduled banks and also the State Bank of India. It exposed the significant link in the form of directors in the scheduled commercial banks and the large-sized industrial undertakings. This was corroborated by the fact that the increase in credit to certain industries grew from 34% in 1951 to 64.3% in 1967, with agriculture being neglected as the credit to the farm sector increased by just 0.1% between 1951 and 1967.

AIBEA's crusade for nationalisation : AIBEA has been demanding for Nationalisation of the Banking Industry to help the country's economy since its formation. This assumed greater significance when in the 3rd Conference of AIBEA, held in 1950 at Jalandhar, Punjab, the following resolution was moved with greater emphasis on Nationalisation of Banks.

"This Conference of the All India Bank Employees' Association while fully supporting and insisting on the fulfillment of Nationalisation of all Basic and Key industries, utility services and big concerns vital to the life of the country emphasises the immediate necessity of Nationalisation of all the Banking Companies. It further demands that nationalization must be accompanied by effective workers' control on the Boards of the management. Legislation to this effect should be immediately introduced so that the stranglehold of foreign and indigenous finance capital over the economy could be ended and the Banks after Nationalisation could play an effective part in the planned development of the country."

In 1956, when the insurance sector was nationalized following the failure of insurance companies, AIBEA commenced its struggles more vociferously. AIBEA stated that the nationalization of the key industries would improve the wealth of the nation to secure better living conditions of the common people.

An unofficial bill for nationalisation of banks was moved, at the behest and struggles of AIBEA, in Parliament but the then Government did not care to accept the bill.

Therefore, the stage was set for further struggles by AIBEA for nationalization of banks. AIBEA highlighted that the Government of India did not implement the recommendations of the Rural Credit Survey and that the stipulation that SBI would open 100 branches every year was also not fulfilled.

AIBEA also brought to light that most of the bank branches are situated in cities and urban areas and the vital agricultural sector is suffering from lack of banking facilities.

AIBEA also exposed that even though the amalgamation scheme of banks protects the interest of the depositors, the employees were rendered jobless. AIBEA had been consistently writing to RBI and the Government about the malpractices being committed by the industrialists in connivance with the top-level executives of the banks through their unholy nexus. AIBEA demanded that the only solution to check such anti-social activities was to nationalize the banking industry. AIBEA campaigned that the banking should play its proper role in the development of the country.

Vigorous campaign was being launched by AIBEA and on 17th February, 1963, All India Day was observed for Nationalisation of the Banks. Since 1955, AIBEA had been seriously urging for the nationalization of the banking industry. Intense campaigns were launched, meetings and seminars were held. AIBEA and the bank-wise unions besides the State Federations gave memorandum to the MLAs, MPs, and political parties in support of this demand.

AIBEA crusaded that for checking malpractices in foreign exchange, hoarding in foodgrains, crushing concentration of wealth in the hands of a few, gearing up agriculture, removing disparity in income, checking rise in prices, the Banks should be Nationalised.

In this background, the Government of India, could not withstand the agitation of the bank employees under the banner of AIBEA on the one side while the economy was losing its grounds without proper concentration in key areas since the first Plan in 1950.

Call for struggle : AIBEA, from its Conference held in 1964 in Trivandrum demand immediate nationalisation banks and declared nationwide struggle. Bitter struggle ensued. The demand of AIBEA was echoed in Parliament. Communist Party of India played a leading role in the Parliament to highlight the demand of AIBEA.

Com. Prabhat Kar, the then General Secretary of AIBEA, who was also a Member of Lok Sabha at that time, spearheaded the debates inside the Parliament.

However, dubiously, the then Deputy Prime Minister of the country and Finance Minister, Sri. Morarji Desai, brought Social Control Bill in December, 1967. Although the statement of objects and reasons contained a good deal of laudable objectives, the clauses incorporated in the bill, by no stretch of imagination, was to help in fulfilling the object ives for which the Bill was brought. The facade of Social Control Bill was to curb the trade union movement in banking sector instead of addressing the key issues of economy.

AIBEA immediately took up the gauntlet and fought against the draconian provisions of Sec.36 AD and Sec.54 AA of the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, through strikes and struggles that sought to take away the right to strike and demonstrations.

Petitions were submitted to MPs, MLAs, Corporation Councillors, Lawyers, Doctors, Scientists, Economists, Trade Unions and Political Parties. AIBEA also appeared before the Select Committee of the Parliament to which the bill was referred.

At the instance of AIBEA, a deputation of Members of Parliament met the Prime Minister on 31.7.1968 and submitted a Memorandum to delete the provisions of Sec. 36 AD and Sec.54 AA of the Bill. Several days strikes were observed by AIBEA. The comrades have plunged into action against these retrograde designs to curb the trade union activities. Under representations, agitations and pressure from AIBEA against the provisions of Sec.36 AD of the Banking Companies (Regulations) Act, demanding its repeal, some Members of the Parliament moved amendments to the Banking Regulations Act to scrap this clause. AIBEA exposed the intentions of the then Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, Sri. Morarji Desai, and demanded immediate Nationalisation of Banks.

The Government was forced to take its decision about Nationalisation of Banks owing to the struggle of AIBEA vigorously since 1955 and the reports of the Rural Credit Survey, which was relevant even then and the revelation of nexus between the industrialists and the commercial banks in private sector of channelling the credit to a few industries with agriculture getting almost no improvement in loans since 1951, as clearly explained by the Mahalanobis Committee.

The Government of India fully understood that the savings of the public were being channelized to boost the wealth of the industrialists and corporates and the Indian Banking industry instead of becoming an important tool to facilitate the development of Indian Economy was catering to the need of a handful of few.

The then Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi, in this background both at the political and the economic fronts, expressed the intention of the Government of India in the annual conference of the All India Congress Committee meeting in a paper titled, "Stray thoughts on Bank Nationalisation". The paper was received with great enthusiasm.

Major Banks nationalised : The Government of India issued an ordinance and nationalized 14 largest commercial banks with effect from the midnight of 19th July, 1969. Within two weeks of the ordinance, the Parliament passed the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertaking) Bill, and it received Presidential approval on 9th August, 1969.

The Banking Industry, as at 19th July, 1969

	No. of employees	Total Deposits in Rs. Crores
State Bank of India	54935	1114
Subsidiary Banks	17602	326
14 Nationalised Banks	93000	3128
Banks under Public Sector	165537	4568
Foreign Banks	12000	487
Other Indian Banks	18000	18000
Banks under private Sector	30000	633

Nationalisation challenged: On the enactment of the Bill, Supreme Court was moved challenging the Constitutional validity of the Act itself. After a marathon hearing of the petitions, the Supreme Court, on 10th February, 1970, struck down the Act as ultra vires of the Constitution on some technical points particularly relating to compensation.

AIBEA called upon the Bank Employees for observing 2-hours strike on 13th February, 1970, throughout the country demanding re-nationalisation of not only 14 banks but the entire Banking Industry. The strike was called at a very short notice but it was a tremendous success and the banking industry was paralysed.

Banks Re-Nationalised: On 14th February, 1970, the Government promulgated a new Ordinance re-nationalising 14 Banks. The second Ordinance became an Act after the Lok Sabha passed it on 24th March, 1970. Thus AIBEA undoubtedly deserved all praise and appreciation true to its resolve to not only secure nationalization but also to defend it. AIBEA spared no efforts to scrap the obnoxious social control bill and also moved and crusaded for nationalisation of banks besides defending it till this date.

The objective of the banks, for which they were nationalized, was to shed their urban bias, spread throughout the countryside with particular attention to backward areas and to diversify their credit in favour of sectors and categories of borrowers to whom facilities of institutional finance have so long been denied. Tremendous impetus was given to branch expansion. At the instance of the government, "Lead Bank Scheme" was launched, in terms of which, districts were assigned to various banks for undertaking quick survey and to open branches in areas in need of urgent banking facilities.

From the horse's mouth:

From RBI's document – The Defining event - on Nationalisastion of Banks in 1969,

" The All-India Bank Employees' Association welcomed the decision. Prabhat Kar, general secretary of the Association, said the step was 'definitely a bold one' but much would depend upon how the nationalized sector would function."

The Nationalisation of the Banks was a great achievement on the part of AIBEA, because of the efforts undertaken since the Foundation Conference and thrust given since 1955 in every other way through demonstrations, rallies, seminars, meetings and representations to various political parties and trade unions. The Rural Credit Survey and the Mahalanobis Committee report besides the crisis in economic situation of the country and the political atmosphere of the country forced the then Government to Nationalise the Banks.

People should know that the same persons, who had challenged and supported the monopolies to file a petition in the Supreme Court of our country against nationalisation of banks, had tried to scuttle the process of Government ownership and tried to reduce the government equity to less than 33% during their regime in 1999. The ideologies and the route being taken by the present government are no different. The Honourable Minister for Finance has announced that apart from IDBI Bank, two more Public Sector Banks will be privatized. This is the grave danger. This is what has been fought against by AIBEA since last nearly 3 decades after the advent of new economic policies ushered in way back in 1991.

Privatisation of Banks is a negative step in a developing economy like India. Indian Public Sector Banks represent the hard-earned savings of the people. Privatisation of banks would risk their savings as many private banks in the past have collapsed and people lost their savings. Private banks do not entertain loans to poor people and for the priority sectors. Their aim is only more and more profit. Service charges are more in private banks and common people will eb affected. Rural branches may be closed in the name of non-viability.

If Banks are privatised, employment opportunities will eb reduced for the educated youth. And job will be on contract basis instead of permanent jobs. Job security will be affected. Reservation policy will not apply to private Banks and hence reserved category employees will eb affected.

Hence privatisation will only benefit the rich corporate houses who will buy these Banks. Already many corporate houses are defaulters of huge bank loans and there is a risk of such defaulters becoming owners of these Banks.

Government says that some of the public sector banks are in losses and hence Government can no longer take care of them. The fact is that all public sector Banks are earning Operating Profits. Because of provision for bad loans some of the Banks are in net loss. So the priority is to take tough action on defaulters and recover the loans. Bit Government is encouraging more write offs and concession to corporate defaulters.

Gross Operating Profits of Public Sector Banks:

Year	Total Operating Profits (Rs. In crores)
2009-10	76,945
2010-11	99,981
2011-12	116,337
2012-13	121,839
2013-14	127,632
2014-15	138,064
2015-16	138,191
2016-17	159,022
2017-18	155,690
2018-19	149,804
2019-20	174,594
2020-21	194,863
2021-22	208,654
2010 to 2022	18,61,616 crores

Why Banks incur losses : Only due to provision for bad loans given to the Corporates:

(Public Sector Banks)	Operating Profit	Provision for bad Loans	Net loss Rs. Crores
2015-16	1,38,191	1,56,183	17992
2016-17	1,59,022	1,70,410	11,388
2017-18	1,55,690	2,41,060	85,370
2018-19	1,49,804	2,16,410	66,606
2019-20	1,74,594	2,00,352	26,016
2020-21	1,94,862	1,63,043	31,820
2021-22	2,08,654	1,34,654	66,540

Instead of taking action on these defaulters and recover the bad loans, the attempt is to privatise and hand over the Banks with public money to the big corporate houses.

IBC – who has gained and who has lost : In the name of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, Corporate defaulters are relieved of their huge loan obligations to the Banks and these bad loans are sold to other Corporates for cheap rates. Thus Banks are the losers and Corporates are the gainers in the process. The haircut is to the extent of 60 to 70%.

AIBEA demands recovery of bad loans from big companies: The only major problem in the Banks today is the increasing bad loans because of the default by big corporate companies. We have been demanding action against them to recover the loans. But Govt. is giving them more and more concession. Finance Minister replied in Parliament in the recent Budget Session that Rs. 91,000 crores of bad loans have been written off in 9 months period of April 22 to Dec. 22 as under

Bank of Baroda	13,032
Bank of India	6,644
Bank of Maharashtra	1,240
Canara Bank	2,928
Central Bank of India	9,817
Indian Bank	6,423
Indian Overseas Bank	3,036
Punjab and Sind Bank	1,705
Punjab National Bank	10,488
State Bank of India	17,356
UCO Bank	1,792
Union Bank of India	16,497
	90,958 crores

Source: Finance Minister's reply in Parliament

VIBRANT BANKS FOR VIBRANT ECONOMY PEOPLE'S MONEY FOR PEOPLE'S WELFARE NATIONAL SAVINGS FOR NATION'S DEVELOPMENT AIBEA's SUGGESTIONS AND DEMANDS

- Strengthen public sector banks
- Provide adequate capital to all the Banks
- Stop privatisation of Banks
- Open more Branches in unbanked areas
- Make Banking a fundamental right of people
- Take stringent measures to recover corporate bad loans
- Make willful default of bank loan a criminal offence
- RBI to publish the names of loan defaulters once in 3 months
- Make RBI more effective and accountable
- Debar loan defaulters to contest elections
- Strengthen recovery laws – review IBC
- Increase interest rate on Deposits
- Reduce service charges to access banking service
- Merge all RRBs with sponsor Banks
- Don't sell IDBI Bank, make it as specialist DFI in public sector
- Strengthen District and Primary Co-operative Banks
- Provide adequate staff in Branches to improve customer service
- Ensure functional autonomy in administration of Banks
- Fill up all vacant posts of Workmen/Officer Directors in Banks

ALL INDIA BANK EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
Central Office: "PRABHAT NIVAS" Regn. No.2037 Singapore Plaza, 164, Linghi Chetty Street, Chennai-600 001 Phone: 2535 1522 Web: www.aibea.in e mail : aibea.hq@gmail.com
Published in public interest by C.H. Venkatachalam, General Secretary, AIBEA 98400 89920

Three arrested in alleged caste-based double murder case

The complainant charged that the two youths were killed by the accused for drinking water from the same jar at a hotel in Hesaraghatta

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police have arrested three individuals, including two rowdy-sheeters, for the alleged double murder of two Dalit youths in Rajankunte on the outskirts of the city. The complainant in the case alleged that the two youths were killed by the accused for drinking water from the same jar as upper castes at a hotel in Hesaraghatta a few days ago.

The arrested have been identified as Bharath Gowda and Nishanth, both hailing from Hesaraghatta, and their associate Vinay, from Doddaballapur, all in their 20s. "We have secured the accused and investigation

A relative of the deceased said the accused came in a car and deliberately hit the bike on which Gopala, Nagaraja, and Ramaiah were riding

is on as to what led to the murders," a senior police official said.

In the complaint, a copy of which is available with *The Hindu*, Venkatesh, a relative of the deceased, alleged that the accused came in a car and deliberately hit the bike on which Gopala, Nagaraja, and Ramaiah, all labourers belonging to SC community, were travelling. The bike was thrown in the air for about 50 metres and came crashing down. Nagaraja and Ramaiah died on the spot. Gopala is in critical condition in the hospital.

The complainant alleged that 20 days ago, Nagaraja was eating at a hotel in Hesaraghatta and while drinking water from a jug, the accused Bharath Gowda objected to it using a caste expletive and questioned how he could drink water from the same jug as them. The complainant said Nagaraja had confided in him Bharath had threatened to kill him as soon as the elections were over.

Bahutva Karnataka, a coalition of progressive organisations fighting for communal harmony in the State, released a statement demanding immediate arrest and prompt investigation into the case, ₹50 lakh compensation, land, and employment for rehabilitation of the families of the deceased and ₹50 lakh compensation for injured Gopala apart from the government bearing all the expenses of his treatment.

Choradi bus accident claims one more life

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

One more person injured in the accident reported at Choradi near Kumsi in Shivamogga taluk on Thursday evening died at a hospital in Shivamogga on Friday. The deceased has been identified as Malleshappa, 45, of Chikka Jogihalli in Shikaripur taluk. With that, the toll has increased to three.

Two private buses had a head-on collision on NH 206, leaving two dead on the spot and more than 35 injured. Arun Kumar, 43, of Esur in Shikaripur taluk, and Thippeswamy, 40, of Hosadurga in Chitradurga district, died on the spot. Arun Kumar was driving the bus. Private buses belonging to Venkatamahalakshmi Transport and Srinivasa Transport were involved in the accident.

Gangadhara J.P., RTO of Shivamogga Division, told *The Hindu* that the bus belonging to Srinivasa Transport had no permit to operate in Shivamogga. "As it had no permit, the fitness certificate will get cancelled automatically. We will also serve a notice to the owner for violating the permit conditions. Besides that, the operator cannot claim any insurance for violating the rules", he said.

The negligence of the driver of the bus, which belonged to Venkatamahalakshmi Transport, is said to be the cause of the accident. He was allegedly on his mobile phone while driving, and he also tried to overtake another vehicle in the narrow lane, resulting in the accident.

Painter falls to death

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A painter who was painting the exterior of an apartment in JP Nagar fell to his death on Thursday. Narasimha, 50, was sitting on a swing suspended by a rope, which gave way. He fell from the third floor.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, MAY. 13
RISE 05:55 SET 18:37
RISE 01:11 SET 13:03

SUNDAY, MAY. 14
RISE 05:55 SET 18:37
RISE 01:56 SET 13:59

MONDAY, MAY. 15
RISE 05:55 SET 18:38
RISE 02:38 SET 14:53

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	26
Mysuru	33	24
Bengaluru	33	24

Bengaluru Today
33ºC The weather will be warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Short spell of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33ºC Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm but humid. Night will be pleasant. Thunderstorm may occur.

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THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of My client **Sri.T.Jagajeevan Rao S/o Sri.Thukkoji Rao** to bring the notice of the general public that the **original absolute sale deed bearing doc No.443/2012-13, Date.13.04.2012, registered in the office of Banasawadi, Bangalore. executed by** Sri.M.Ashwath and Sri.Murali.R in favour of Smt.Sujatha.N Babu W/o Sri.P.Narasimbabu is missing / lost/ misplaced in respect of schedule property.

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the residential immovable property being **Portion of Site No.7, Katha No.37/35/33,** formed out of converted **Sy.Nos.93/4, 93/5 and 93/6,** converted for residential purposes vide its Orders (1) ALN(E)SR(KH)174/2010-11, (2) ALN(E)SR(KH) 175/2010-11, (3) ALN(E)SR(KH)176/2010-11, passed by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, situated at **K.Channasandra (Kalkere Channasandra) Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk,** now comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP, Bangalore, measuring east to west (53.6+51.6)/2 feet and north to south 23.8 +24.7/2 feet, in all measuring **1275.55 Sq.feet** and bounded by:

East by : Road
West by : Site No.10,
North by : Site No.6
South by : Remaining Portion of same Site No.7

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is bring it to the notice of the General Public that our client Sri H D Shivakumar S/o H Devanna Bengaluru has lost the Original Sale deed dated 18.03.1957, bearing document no 2738/1956-57, Stored in Book No I, Volume No 936, Pages 52-55, in the Sub Register, Bengaluru Civil Station, executed in favour of Shri H Devanna S/o Hanumaiah in respect of property i.e. property bearing New No 5, Old No 175, having PID No 81-22-5, measuring East to West 23Feet and North to South 22Feet situated at 1st Bazaar Street, Halasuru, Ward No 81, Bangalore – 560008, somewhere from long back. If any of the public traces the same the same may be handed over to the below mentioned Address. Further if any person having custody and tries to misuse the said documents same shall not be binding on the said property manner.

SHIVAYOGI JAWOOR
#418/21, 19th Cross Road,1st and 3rd Block Jayanagar Bengaluru -560011
Mob : 9110224212/9742499808

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, AT BENGALURU
ORIGINAL JURISDICTION
PROBATE CIVIL PETITION NO.14 / 2023
IN THE MATTER OF THE MOVABLE PROPERTY OF MRS. RAJALAKSHMI ALSO KNOWN AS RAJALAKSHMI VAIDYANATHAN
(INTESTATE AND DECEASED)

BETWEEN:
1. MR. VAIDYANATHAN CHANDRAN,
Also known **V. Chandran**
S/o late Chelakara Vaidyanathan And late Rajalakshmi also known as Rajalakshmi Vaidyanathan Aged about 73 years, Residing at No.C-3/131, 3rd Floor, Sobha Zircon, Garden Estate, Jakkur, Bengaluru – 560 064.
2. MR. RAVI VENKATESH NATHAN
Also known as **Ravi V. Nathan,** S/o late Chelakara Vaidyanathan And late Rajalakshmi also known as Rajalakshmi Vaidyanathan Aged about 64 years, Residing at 811, El Camino Road, Ojai, California - 93023 USA
Represented by his Specific Power of Attorney holder **Mr. V. Ramanathan**
3. MR. V. RAMANATHAN,
S/o late Chelakara Vaidyanathan And late Rajalakshmi also known as Rajalakshmi Vaidyanathan Aged about 56 years, Residing at No.462 and 462/1, 4th Main, 15th Cross, Indiranagar II Stage, Bengaluru – 560 038
.....**PETITIONERS**
AND
NIL .....**RESPONDENTS**
WHEREAS the Petitioners above named have made a Petition dated 05.04.2023 under Part X (Section 372 read with Section 47 of the Indian Succession Act of 1925) for the grant of a Succession Certificate on account of the death of Mrs. Rajalakshmi also known as Rajalakshmi Vaidyanathan, who died intestate on 16.02.2009 at Chennai. in respect of the movable properties of the deceased.
Be it known that no Caveat has been entered and that the said petition is posted for hearing on the **Twenty First** day of **June, Two Thousand and Twenty Three (21.06.2023),** and all persons claiming to have any interest in the estate of the deceased may come and see the proceedings before the grant of Succession Certificate.
Given under my hand and seal of this Court, this the **Twentieth** day of **April, 2023**

By order of the Hon'ble Court
Assistant Registrar
High Court of Karnataka
Bengaluru
Counsels for the Petitioners :
Vivek Anand Anthony Britto
Vir Anthony Britto
Advocates
"Daisville", 633, 5th Main, Indiranagar
II Stage, Bengaluru-560038

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, AT BENGALURU
ORIGINAL JURISDICTION
PROBATE CIVIL PETITION NO.13 / 2023
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MRS. RANEE NORONHA AND MR. JOSEPH PRABHU ALSO KNOWN AS JOSEPH BENEDICT PRABHU
(INTESTATE AND DECEASED)

BETWEEN:
1. MR. JAIDEEP CHARLES PRABHU,
also known as **JAIDEEP PRABHU,**
Aged about 55 years,
Son of late Cecil Noronha and late Ranee Noronha, Permanently residing at Flat No. 4A, Charles Court, No. 12, Rest House Road, Bengaluru 560 001
Represented by his Power of Attorney holder, Mr. Jatin Prabhu.
2. MR. JATIN PRABHU, Aged about 42 years, Son of late Cecil Noronha and late Ranee Noronha, Permanently residing at Flat No. 4A, Charles Court, No. 12, Rest House Road, Bengaluru 560 001.
3. MRS. TARA SOPHIA PERIS Aged about 46 years, Daughter of late Joseph Prabhu Also known as Joseph Benedict Prabhu Residing at 638, S. Sycamore Avenue, Los Angeles, CA, 90036, USA
Represented by her Power of Attorney holder, Mr. Jatin Prabhu
.....**PETITIONERS**
AND
NIL .....**RESPONDENTS**
WHEREAS the Petitioners above named have made a Petition dated 05.04.2023 under Part IX (Section 278 read with Section 219 of the Indian Succession Act of 1925) for the grant of Letters of Administration on account of the death of **Mrs. Ranee Noronha and Mr.Joseph Prabhu also known as Joseph Benedict Prabhu,** both children of late John Peris, both of who died **intestate** on 04.05.2020 and 27.09.2021 respectively. That Mrs. Ranee Noronha died in Bengaluru while Mr.Joseph Prabhu also known as Joseph Benedict Prabhu died in Los Angeles, California, U.S.A in respect of the properties of the deceased.
Be it known that no Caveat has been entered and that the said petition is posted for hearing on the **Twenty First** day of **June, Two Thousand and Twenty Three (21.06.2023),** and all persons claiming to have any interest in the estate of the deceased may come and see the proceedings before the grant of Letters of Administration.
Given under my hand and seal of this Court, this the **Twentieth** day of **April, 2023**

By order of the Hon'ble Court
Assistant Registrar
High Court of Karnataka
Bengaluru
Counsels for the Petitioners :
Vivek Anand Anthony Britto
Vir Anthony Britto
Advocates
"Daisville", 633, 5th Main, Indiranagar
II Stage, Bengaluru-560038

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, AT BENGALURU
ORIGINAL JURISDICTION
PROBATE CIVIL PETITION NO.15 / 2023
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MRS. SARAMMA THOMAS
(INTESTATE AND DECEASED)

BETWEEN :
1. MR. THOMAS MATHEW, aged about 77 years, son of late Thomas P. Mathew and late Saramma Thomas, residing at Apt D1, Block I, Meredian Apartments, 1A Cross, SR Layout, Murugeshpalya, Bengaluru –560017
2. MR. THOMAS GEORGE aged about 75 years, son of late Thomas P. Mathew and late Saramma Thomas, residing at Noble Villa, Kumbanad P.O., Koipuram, Kumbanadu, Thiruvalla, Pathanamthitta.Kerala – 689 547.
Petitioner Nos. 1 and 2 are
Both represented by their
Power of Attorney holders
a. Mrs. Mercy Baby aged about 72 years, daughter of late Thomas P. Mathew and late Saramma Thomas,
b.Mrs. Smitha Mathew, wife of Mr. Sumanth Noronha, aged about 43 years, residing at No. A 603, DNR Atmosphere Apartments, Whitefield Main Road, Ramagondana halli,Bengaluru – 560 066.
3. MRS. MERCY BABY aged about 72 years, daughter of late Thomas P. Mathew and late Saramma Thomas, residing at Flat 301, 3rd Floor, Golden Gate Apartments, 5th Main, 9th Main Road,NRI Layout, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 016.
4. MRS. ALICE KOSHY aged about 69 years, daughter of late Thomas P. Mathew and late Saramma Thomas, residing at 2407, Rogers Key, San Antonio, Texas – 78258 USA.
5. MRS. MARY GNANA SUNDARAM aged about 67 years, daughter of late Thomas P. Mathew and late Saramma Thomas, residing at 5, IFIELD Court Burswood, East Tamaki, Auckland, 2013 New Zealand.
6. MR. ABRAHAM THOMAS aged about 52 years, son of late Thomas P. Mathew and late Saramma Thomas, Residing at 1449 Chamboard Ln, Houston , TX 77018 USA
Petitioner Nos.4 to 6 are
Represented by their
Power of Attorney Holders
a. Mrs. Mercy Baby Aged about 72 years, Daughter of late Thomas P. Mathew And late Saramma Thomas,
b. Mrs. Smitha Mathew, wife of Mr. Sumanth Noronha, aged about 43 years,
.....**PETITIONERS**
AND
NIL .....**RESPONDENTS**
WHEREAS the Petitioners above named have made a Petition dated 05.04.2023 under Part IX (Section 278 read with Section 219 of the Indian Succession Act of 1925) for the grant of Letters of Administration on account of the death of Mrs. Saramma Thomas, who died **intestate** on 15.02.2022 in Bengaluru in respect of the properties of the deceased.
Be it known that no Caveat has been entered and that the said petition is posted for hearing on the **Twenty First** day of **June, Two Thousand and Twenty Three (21.06.2023),** and all persons claiming to have any interest in the estate of the deceased may come and see the proceedings before the grant of Letters of Administration.
Given under my hand and seal of this Court, this the **Twentieth** day of **April, 2023**

By order of the Hon'ble Court
Assistant Registrar
High Court of Karnataka
Bengaluru
Counsels for the Petitioners :
Vivek Anand Anthony Britto
Vir Anthony Britto
Advocates
"Daisville", 633, 5th Main, Indiranagar
II Stage, Bengaluru-560038

TAMIL NADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
No.417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai-600008.
Phone : 28191890 / 28190259; Fax: 044 –28190636 E-Mail: equipment.tnmsc@tn.gov.in
INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR LOCAL/INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

(1) The Government of Tamil Nadu has received a Loan (Loan No. ID-P251)) from the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) towards the cost of Tamil Nadu Urban Healthcare Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for which this Invitation for Bids is issued. (2)The General Manager (Equipment), TNMSC Ltd. now invites bids from eligible bidders for supply of the following goods:

Sl. No.	Tender/Item with Qty./Document cost	Sale start date	Pre-bid Meeting	End of Submission of bid	Opening of bid
1	Tender No.PKG14(R)/C3-C1/LCB/TNUHP/JICA/TNMSC/ENGG/ 2023, dt 10.05.2023 – Serology Analyzer (1), HbA1C Analyzer (7) & ACT (7) – Rs.3,435/-	16.05.2023	23.05.2023 11.00 AM	07.06.2023 11.00 AM	07.06.2023 12.00 Noon
2	Tender No.PKG29(R)/C1/LCB/TNUHP/JICA/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, dt:10.05.2023 – Transport Ventilator (13) – Rs.5,725/-	16.05.2023	23.05.2023 11.30 AM	07.06.2023 11.00 AM	07.06.2023 12.00 Noon
3	Online Tender No.PKG39(R)/C1/LCB/TNUHP/JICA/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, dt:10.05.2023 – Hydrosurgery debridement System (3) – Rs.5,725/-	17.05.2023	24.05.2023 11.00 AM	08.06.2023 11.00 AM	08.06.2023 12.00 Noon
4	Online Tender No.PKG50(R)/C1/LCB/TNUHP/JICA/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, dt:10.05.2023 – Intraoperative Ultrasound with Laparoscopic Probe (2) – Rs.5,725/-	17.05.2023	24.05.2023 11.30 AM	08.06.2023 11.00 AM	08.06.2023 12.00 Noon
5	Online Tender No.PKG31F/C1/LCB/TNUHP/JICA/TNMSC/ ENGG/2023, dt:10.05.2023 – FISH (Fluorescent in Situ Hybridization (1) – Rs.5,725/-	18.05.2023	25.05.2023 11.00 AM	09.06.2023 11.00 AM	09.06.2023 12.00 Noon
6	Online Tender No.PKG20G/C1/LCB/TNUHP/JICA/TNMSC/ENGG/ 2023, dt:10.05.2023 – 250 KVA Generator for 3T MRI (2) Rs.5,725/-	18.05.2023	25.05.2023 11.30 AM	09.06.2023 11.00 AM	09.06.2023 12.00 Noon
7	Online Tender No.PKG35(R)/C1/LCB/TNUHP/JICA/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, dt:10.05.2023 – Refrigerator for Skin Graft Storage (4) & Blood Bank Refrigerator (4) – Rs.2,290/-	19.05.2023	26.05.2023 11.00 AM	13.06.2023 11.00 AM	13.06.2023 12.00 Noon
8	Online Tender No.PKG53(R)/C1/LCB/TNUHP/JICA/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, dt:10.05.2023 – Diode Laser (4) & Vascular Doppler – Hand Doppler (12) – Rs.2,290/-	19.05.2023	26.05.2023 11.30 AM	13.06.2023 11.00 AM	13.06.2023 12.00 PM
9	Tender No.PKG3(R)-C1/ICB/TNUHP/JICA/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, dt:10.05.2023 – Intra Aortic Balloon Pump (6) – Rs.5,900/- (Offline)	15.05.2023	30.05.2023 11.00 AM	04.07.2023 11.00 AM	04.07.2023 12.00 Noon
10	Tender No.PKG10(R)-C1/ICB/TNUHP/JICA/TNMSC/ENGG/2023, dt:10.05.2023 – Arterial Blood Gas Analyzer (17), Thromboelastograph (5) – Rs.5,900/- (Offline)	15.05.2023	30.05.2023 11.30 AM	04.07.2023 03.00 PM	04.07.2023 04.00 PM

(3) For details visit www.tenders.tn.gov.in and TNMSC website www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in.
(4) All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in Indian rupees as specified in the bid document.
DIPR / 2550 / TENDER / 2023 **General Manager (Equipment)**
" சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
INVITATION OF BIDS–TWO COVER–ITEMWAR TENDER SYSTEM
(E-Submission Short term)

IFB No.	02 /F. CWSS to Pudukkottai Mpty / SDO/CE-TNJ/2023/ Dated.11.05.2023.
Fund	CGF and O&M Gap filling Funds
Eligibility	Registered Class I Contractors (Civil)
Tender Invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Integrated Office Complex, First Floor, No.243/2, Thanjavur-Trichy Main Road, Pillayarpatty, Thanjavur-613 403
Sale of Bid	**15.05.2023 to 30.05.2023 upto 15.00 hours (as per server time)**
EMD Payable	Online Mode through E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in**
Available website	E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in.**
Pre Bid meeting	**23.05.2023** at **11.00** hours at the office of the Tender Invitee
Bid Submission	**30.05.2023** upto **15.00** hours Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering portal **www.tntenders.gov.in**
Bid opening	**31.05.2023** at **15.30** hours at the office of the Tender Invitee through E-Tender Portal

IFB. No.	Name of work	Approximate value of work (Rs. in Crore including 18% GST)	Bid Security (Rs.in lakhs)
02	Improvement of existing CWSS to Pudukkottai Municipality, 3 Town Panchayats and 15 wayside habitations in Pudukkottai District (Period of Construction 12 months: Trial run: 6 Months & Paid Maintenance: 60 Months)	66.94	50.21

DIPR/ 2560 /TENDER/2023 **Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Thanjavur.**
SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Stressed Assets Management Branch, Bengaluru
2nd Floor, Office Complex Building, SBI LHO Campus, No. 65, St. Mark's Road, Bengaluru -560 001
Ph: 080 -25943474, Fax No.: 080 -22225203, E-mail Id: sbi.04209@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE
Under Rule - 8 (1) (For immovable properties)

No: SBI/SAMB/CLO-3/SMPPL/ **A/c Nos.CC 38398177371, TL 38359499180, GECL-1 -39390021254, GECL – 2 – 40496771275**

WHEREAS, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **State Bank of India** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated **02.03.2023**calling upon the Borrower/Mortgagor**, M/s S M Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd., Regd. Address:** No.44/8, Ground Floor,15thCross, Malleswaram,Bengaluru – 560003 **Also at:**Plot No.37/A-2, Chokkahalli Village, Pillaguppe Industrial Area,Hosakote Taluk - 562114 and Guarantors/Mortgagors **(1) Shri Yashwanth K Raju,** S/o Shri K Doraswamy Raju, Managing Director, **(2) Shri K. Doraswamy Raju,** S/o. late Shri Narasa Raju, Director, **(3) Smt. Geetha D Raju,** W/o Shri. K Doraswamy Raju, All are residing at: **(i)** "Lakshminarasimha Nilaya", No.44/8, Ground Floor, 15thCross, Malleswaram, Bengaluru – 560003 **(ii)** Plot No.37/A-2, Chokkahalli Village, Pillaguppe Industrial Area, Hosakote Taluk – 562114to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.20,17,23,376/- (Rupees Twenty Crore Seventeen Lakh Twenty Three Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Six Only) as on 28.02.2023** + interest from **01.03.2023**+ incidental expenses+ cost within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The Borrower having failed to repay the amount in full as mentioned in the Demand Notice, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantors/Mortgagors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section13 (4) of thesaid Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on **12.05.2023.**
The Borrower/Guarantors/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with these below mentioned immovable properties and any dealings with the said immovable properties will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India for an amount of **Rs 20,82,04,529/- (Rupees Twenty Crore Eighty Two Lakh Four Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Nine Only) as on 10.5.2023** and future interest at contractual rate from **11.5.2023, cost etc. thereon.**
The Borrower/Guarantors/Mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

PROPERTY NO.1.: All that piece and parcel of the immovable industrial Plot bearing Number 37-A2 of Hoskote Industrial Area, measuring East to West 53 Meters and North to South 38 Meters, totally measuring 2014 Square Meters (21678sq feet), situated in Survey Number 96, Part of Chokkahally Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, E-Khatha Number 150300401200120063, Property Number 119/37-A2 consisting of factory building Ground and First floor measuring 18000 Sq. feet each, Second Floor measuring 9000 Sq. feet and chemical Storage Area of 3000 Sq. feet with RCC Roof, concrete floor including all the appurtenants, fixtures, appliances, easements, benefits etc., standing in the name of M/s S M Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd. represented by (1) Shri Yashwanth K Raju, S/o Shri K Doraswamy Raju, Managing Director, (2) Shri K. Doraswamy Raju, S/o. late Shri K Narasa Raju, Director, vide Sale Deed dated 15.04.2019 and Registered as Document No.HSK-1-00438/2019-20 and CD No.HSKD739 dated 15.04.019 at SRO, Hoskote, Bengaluru and mortgaged in favour of the Bank vide Mortgage Deed dated 15.04.2019 vide Document No.HSK-1-00439 and stored in CD No.HSKD739 dated 15.04.2019 at SRO, Hosakote and the property is bounded on: East by: Plot No.37/A1, West by : KIADB Road, North by : Plot No.37/B, South by: KIADB Road.
PROPERTY NO.2 : All that piece and parcel of Residential Site No.44/8, with PID No. 7-22-44/8 and situated at 15th Cross Road, Malleswaram, Bengaluru – 560003 (Metro) falling under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Ward No.7-Malleswaram admeasuring East to West 35 feet and North to South 70 feet and Total Area 2450 Sq. feet with house constructed thereon and standing in the joint names of Smt. Geetha D Raju, W/o Shri. K Doraswamy Raju & Shri K. Doraswamy Raju, S/o. late Shri Narasa Raju, vide Sale Deed dated 06.02.2003 and Registered as Document No.6377/2002-03 dated 06.02.2003 at SRO, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru and mortgaged in favour of the Bank vide Mortgage Deed dated 30.03.2019 vide Document No.GNR-1-06271/2018-19 and stored in CD No.GNRD212 dated 30.03.2019 at SRO, Gandhinagar (Ganganagar) and property bounded on: East by : Narrow common passage, West by : Property alloted to Sri R. Narasimhachar, Plot No.09, North by: 15th Cross Road and South by : Property alloted to the share of Late Sri R. Thirunarayana Iyengar, Plot No.10.
Note: Mortgage on both the above Property No.1 and property No.2 extended vide extension of mortgage deed dated 08.07.2021 and Registered as Document No.YPR-1-01138/2021-22 and CD No.YPRD815 dated 08.07.2021 at SRO, Rajajinagar (Yeshwanthpura)

Place : Bengaluru,
Date : 12.05.2023

Authorised Officer
State Bank of India,
SAM Branch, Bengaluru.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(Construction Organisation)
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT PROJECT (RAILWAYS) / CHENNAI
Tirumailai Station Building, Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004
e-TENDER NOTICE No. DYCE-MTP-MTMY-02-2023 Dt: 28.04.2023

For and on behalf of the President of India, Dy. Chief Engineer, Tirumailai Station Building, Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004 invites e-Tender for the following work as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal **www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderers / contractor intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted. The cost of the tender form and the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) should be made through online payment gateway available in the website by the way of multiple bank's net-banking, debit card and credit card.

Name of Work: MRTS - Phase-II - Extension from Velachery to St. Thomas Mount - P.Way works between Adambakkam and St.Thomas Mount Stations in the elevated portion.

Item No.	Approximate Cash Value in ₹	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	Tender closing Date & Time 15.00 hrs.	Period of Completion in Month(s)
1	2,37,87,932.96	2,68,900.00	23.05.2023	03 Months

For further details / please refer to website portal **www.ireps.gov.in** or contact office of the Dy. Chief Engineer, Tirumailai Station Building, Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004.
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Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
No: BMRCL/CPRO/Caution Notice/2023-24 Date: 12.05.2023

Caution Notice

It has come to the notice of BMRCL that some of the Land Owners who have parted their land for Bangalore Metro Rail Project, are being approached by some miscreants stating they are the employees of BMRCL and asking to meet personally, as they are eligible for additional compensation.
BMRCL would like to bring it to the notice of the General Public / Land Owners to be cautious of such persons' / phone calls.
For any details and clarification, please do contact Sri M.S.Channappa Goudar, General Manager (Land Acquisition & Estates), on Mobile: 9480825746 and Sri Mohamed Mohamood, General Manager (Land Acquisition), on Mobile: 8277890461 or Landline **080–22969396**.

Sd/- Chief Public Relations Officer

The Campco Ltd.
Head office
Varanasi Towers, Mission Street, Mangalore.
Phone : 08251 -277420/277422

Date : 11-05-2023

Tender Notification

Sealed tenders are invited from the eligible Transport Service provider to quote the rates towards safe transportation of cocoa based products/ chocolates/ confectionery (food products) from Campco Chocolate Factory, Puttur to the required destinations under controlled temperature as required for the period from 01.06.2023 to 31.05.2025.
Tender forms can be obtained from Campco Chocolate Factory, Puttur - 574202 during office hour on payment of Rs. 5,900/- (inclusive of GST) (Non refundable) towards tender form from 15.05.2023 to 20.05.2023.
Last date for submission of tender form is 23.05.2023 on 4.30 PM along with EMD of Rs 5,000/- by way of demand draft, drawn in favor of "The Campco Ltd – Chocolate Factory payable at Puttur, Karnataka".
Managing Director has the right to accept or reject the tenders without assigning any reason.

Sd/-
Managing Director

*Terms & condition will apply.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Directorate General of Systems and Data Management,
Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs,
1st & 5th Floor, GST Bhavan, 26/1, Mahatma Gandhi Salai,
Nungambakkam, Chennai-600034.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RfP)

Request for Proposal (RFP) for Production Support and Maintenance for ACES-GST Application of CBIC
e-Procurement through Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP)

1.PROJECT BRIEF

Directorate General of Systems and Data Management (DGS) is one of the Directorate Generals under Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), a part of the Department of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India entrusted with the task of implementation and management of IT initiatives of CBIC, including ACES-GST Application.

The ACES-GST application was conceptualized and implemented as a state-of-the-art backend application and is currently being used by the CBIC departmental officials to administer GST and Central Excise (CE) duty.

The office of the Principal Additional Director General, Chennai, Directorate General of Systems & Data Management, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India invites responses (Proposals/Bids) to this RFP from eligible Bidders to be appointed for providing Production Support and Maintenance for ACES-GST application of CBIC.

2. ASSIGNMENT IN BRIEF

The assignment includes providing Production support in form of Helpdesk support, application support as well as Maintenance support which includes enhancements in current application as per the department's requirements.

Interested bidders may purchase the RFP by paying INR 25,000 as non-refundable RFP Fee in form of a Demand Draft drawn in favour of **'PAO CGST Chennai'** payable at Chennai with Submission of a valid and duly executed Confidentiality Undertaking and Letter of authorization for procurement of RFP as per format given in Notice Inviting Tender (NIT).

3. SUBMISSION

Bids are to be submitted online only at Central Public Procurement Portal: **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.** Pre-bid meeting would be held on **23.05.2023.** The last date for submission of the bids is **19.06.2023. 17.00 HOURS**. Please refer to NIT document for other details.

For Notice Inviting Tender please visit
https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app
(Tender ID Number: 2023_DREV_752983_1)

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PROPERTYPLUS
HOMES AND REAL ESTATE NEWS

thehindu.com/features/homes-and-gardens
THE HINDU

Builders can breathe easy

The recent pause in repo rate hike is likely to boost housing demand and provide scope for new launches, says **Shrinivas Rao**

The country's consumer price index inflation touched 6.4% in February, marking it the second consecutive month in which retail inflation remained well above the Reserve Bank of India's acceptable range. Despite high retail inflation, the central bank maintained status quo during the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting in April and kept the repo rate stable at 6.5%. This move provided temporary relief to homebuyers.

Tracing the timeline, the RBI raised the repo rate for the first time in May 2022 to 4.4%, after keeping it constant throughout the COVID-19 pandemic at 4% (April 2020 to April 2022). Since then, the central bank has increased the repo rate intermittently by a cumulative 250 basis points to 6.50% in FY23. Although the decision was seen as an appropriate step to control increasing inflation, it caused concerns within the real estate sector. It was taken up at a time when the industry was seen to be recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and was picking up pace after a long period of market downturn.

Fortuitously, the momentum created by the pent-up demand in 2022-23 managed to somewhat offset the impact of the repo rate increase, and the year ended on an exuberant note, recording the highest number of residential launches and sales in nearly a decade. The growth post-structural reforms, such as RERA, GST, etc., in the Indian real estate sector is driven by strong fundamentals. These regulatory changes ushered transparency in the sector and boosted the confidence of stakeholders, resulting in a strong demand for housing post-pandemic.

The RBI kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5% during the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting in April. This is a welcome move for the real estate fraternity.

Healthy balance

The first quarter of 2023 reported the highest number of residential launches and sales ever in a quarter. The growth is driven by strong fundamentals and a healthy balance between demand and supply. The recent pause in repo rate hike is likely to boost the demand further and provide scope for new supply. However, with continuing global recessionary headwinds as well as rising property prices and geopolitical tensions, another repo rate hike in the future may have a stronger impact than observed in the past few quarters. The current situation, marked by the rising cost of construction raw materials, portends an uneasy road ahead for the industry. Continuous repo rate hikes in the past year coupled with an increase in the cost of construction raw materials, increased EMIs significantly for homebuyers.

We expect the repo rate to remain stable for one more quarter, which will ultimately strengthen the economy and create a conducive environment for the real estate industry to operate efficiently

As EMIs continue to rise at regular intervals, a greater proportion of the borrower's income will be allocated towards debt repayment, thereby reducing the amount available for domestic budget planning. Considering that a 250 basis points increase in the repo rate has a sizable impact on EMI, this may pose a risk of defaults. Therefore, banks would choose to be prudent and exercise caution to prevent such situations, as a result of which, overall loan eligibility might decrease. Besides rising home loans, rising cost of construction may prompt developers to raise their prices further, which would have an additional impact on homebuyers and potentially cause a decline in market sentiment over time.

The first quarter of 2023 reported the highest number of residential launches and sales ever in a quarter.

Real estate professionals offer their clients contracts to discuss home purchases.

With such stringent measures in place, provisional retail inflation (5.7%) in March came within RBI's targeted range, which may prompt the central bank to lower interest rates. This is critical because elevated interest rates not only impact the real estate market, but also affect the cost of conducting business. As a result, we expect the repo rate to remain stable for one more quarter, which will ultimately strengthen the economy and create a conducive environment for the real estate industry to operate efficiently in future.

The author is CEO, Vestian

CREDAI to build over 1,000 green projects in the next two years

The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Association of India (CREDAI) has announced a nation-wide partnership with Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) to build over 1,000 certified green projects in the next two years across India, and 4,000 projects by 2030, through adoption of IGBC Green & Net Zero building ratings.

This was announced on the occasion of CREDAI's investiture ceremony which witnessed Boman Irani becoming the new president of CREDAI National for the term 2023-25.

Certification

The CREDAI plan will mean an addition of over 4,00,000 housing units in the green development category across the country. These projects will be certified by IGBC.

For better buildings

The new CREDAI national president, Boman Irani, has launched the national vision of G.R.O.W.T.H: Integrating CREDAI National and all its chapters in a unified mission to facilitate:

G: Green Construction
R: Reform
O: Opportunity to Build a New India
W: Women Empowerment
T: Transparency
H: Housing for All

Mr. Irani said "We will work with the government to ensure a more conducive eco-system for sustainable growth, and enhances governance standards for our homebuyers. We have collaborated with IGBC for achieving our motto "Better Buildings, Building Better".

CREDAI represents 13000+ developers across 221 city chapters.

REAL ESTATE

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THE HINDU
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AROUND 58% OF BUILDERS EXPECT HOUSING PRICES TO RISE FURTHER IN 2023.

As per survey by: Economic Times

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BG-BGE

From Page One

All three main parties on the edge

On the other hand, a victory for the Congress would give a boost to its sagging morale, as the party has been witnessing poll defeats in States since 2014.

The victory will also help to prove the leadership qualities of AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge, who hails from Karnataka, besides KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah, who remain contenders for the Chief Minister's post. It will also go to prove the local issues-based campaign strategy of the party.

A defeat will weaken the party's claim for leadership of a pan-India anti-BJP alliance ahead of the 2024 general elections.

HDK's move raises eyebrows

In the event of a hung House, the JD (S) would weigh several options before it to exploit the political advantage. It remains to be seen whether former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda-led JD (S) will emerge as a "kingmaker or king" by holding the key to government formation, as it had done in 2004 and 2018.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kumaraswamy's trip to Singapore hours after polling set off speculations of post-poll negotiations.

If the JD (S) crosses the 30-seat mark, Mr. Kumaraswamy is expected to stake his claim for the post of Chief Minister, irrespective of who seeks his party's support. In 2018, the then Congress leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad and Ahmed Patel struck a deal with the JD (S) and installed the JD (S)-Congress government, led by Mr Kumaraswamy, which lasted 14 months. Now, Mr. Azad has quit the Congress and Patel died in November 2020, and it remains to be seen which Congress leader will take the initiative in striking the deal in case of a hung Assembly.

In case the party secures less than 30 seats in the fractured mandate, the party might opt for a leader who would toe its line, like in 2004 when N. Dharam Singh was made Chief Minister.

The polls would decide the future of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, three former Chief Ministers (Mr. Siddaramaiah, Mr. Kumaraswamy, and Jagadish Shettar) and Mr. Shivakumar, besides several other prominent leaders.

2018 results

In the 2018 Assembly polls, the BJP emerged as the single largest party with 104 seats, followed by the Congress with 80, and JD (S) with 37 seats; the BSP got one seat and the Independents numbered two. The Congress secured a vote share of 38.04%, followed by the BJP with 36.22%, and the JD (S) with 18.36%.

A combination of factors has made prediction of this poll outcome tough

Key among them are the rebel factor, many new candidates in the fray, triangular fights in several constituencies, high-profile contests, local issues, and interplay of changing caste combinations

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

While most exit polls have predicted a fractured mandate, long-time election observers have also been unable to predict the outcome despite a perceived anti-incumbency and corruption charges against the ruling BJP. FILE PHOTO

The elections to the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, the results of which will be available in a few hours, have been tough to predict. While most exit polls have predicted a fractured mandate, long-time election observers on the ground have also been unable to predict despite a perceived anti-incumbency and corruption charges against the ruling BJP.

The rebel factor, a large number of new candidates in the fray, change of legislators, triangular fights in many constituencies, high-profile contests, local issues, and more importantly, the interplay of changing caste combinations triggered by the last-minute decisions of the BJP, among others, are said to be making the predictions of the election outcome tough, multiple poll managers across parties said. A number of these contests are expected to go down to the wire.

Traditional rivals

There are traditional rivalry seats that oscillate between common rivals/families, which are also narrow-margin seats, and these are estimated to be about 50 constituencies in the State. The Janata Dal (Secular), which had a head start for the elections with its Pancharatna Yatra, is being seen as a factor that added to the confusion. In several constituencies beyond its stronghold districts in Old Mysore region, the party announced candidates early and is said to have offered a fight, eating into the vote base of the other two major parties in the fray, and making the contest triangular. The JD (S) is estimating that about 100 constituencies could see narrow-margin victories this time.

See-saw battles

In 2018, as many as 31 Assembly constituencies saw see-saw battles that eventually led to the outcome decided by margins less than 5,000 votes. The Congress grabbed 19 of them and the BJP won in eight seats while the Janata Dal (Secular) and 'others' won three and one seat, respectively. In 46 constituencies, victory margins were between 5,000 and 10,000 votes. The BJP and the Congress won 19 each, and the JD(S) won seven while 'others' won in one seat.

This election, Congress sources said, could witness a higher number of low-margin results. The party has mapped nearly 30 constituencies that will be tantalisingly closely fought. "These are constituencies we are unable to predict. There are others that have been closely fought, but we are hopeful of the Congress' victory." Of the over a dozen Congress rebels in the fray, about five might cause a dent to the party, sources said.

The BJP also changed 24 legislators in this election but is also facing rebellion in at least 18 seats. Though the party is not worried in most cases, it is particularly watching four constituencies where the rebels are projected to win, sources said.

High-profile contests

Another reason for the difficulty in predicting has been constituencies witnessing high-profile contests where any candidate could emerge as the winner. Varuna, Shikaripur, Chikkamagaluru, Ramanagara, Channaptana, Ballari City, Shiggaon, Gokak, and Hubballi Dharwad Central where top politicians are contesting are among the few of them. "These constituencies have the capacity to throw up surprising results as candidates involved are equally powerful and with huge financial resources."

Caste matrix

The confusion about the caste reservation matrix and the exit of Lingayat leaders Jagdish Shettar and Laxman Savadi, and its impact on the elections, can only be ascertained after the results. "Not only Lingayat issue but also reservation issues related to Vokkaligas and SC/ST communities have complicated the election outcome and it has become tough to predict a clear winner in many constituencies," said a leader.

Parties hold informal meetings, assess situation

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai met BJP veteran B.S. Yediyurappa at his residence in Bengaluru on Friday along with Ministers Murugesh Nirani and Byrathi Basavaraj.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

On the eve of the counting of votes, the top leaders of the BJP and the Congress adopted a cautious approach by holding informal confabulations to take stock of the situation while JD(S) leader H. D. Kumaraswamy, who is in Singapore, monitored the situation from there.

While the morale of the principal Opposition is high in the wake of the exit polls giving it a clear edge, the ruling BJP and the Opposition JD(S) have both adopted a wait-and-watch approach as they are eagerly awaiting for early trends.

On Friday, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai met his predecessor and party veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa at his residence in Bengaluru along with Ministers Murugesh Nirani and Byrathi Basavaraj and Rajya Sabha member Lahar Singh. The meeting is believed to have discussed various probabilities and options that may arise out of the results.

DKS meets Kharge

Similarly, KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar called on AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge at his residence in Bengaluru and held consultations. Congress top leaders had held a virtual meeting with party senior leaders and candidates on Thursday.

Mr. Kumaraswamy, who is in Singapore, is reportedly in touch with party senior leaders over the phone. According to party sources, will arrive in Bengaluru early on Saturday.

Meanwhile, though multiple exit polls have predicted a clear edge for the Congress, BJP top leaders have expressed confidence that the actual results would be different. Sources in the BJP claimed the party was confident of touching a tally of at least 100 seats. They believe that even if the BJP touch the 100 mark, the political arithmetic of the Karnataka Assembly changes, opening up the door for the party to be a key player in the process of government formation.

In fact, senior Minister R. Ashok told a private TV channel that the party would form the government "even if it does not get a full majority". Before leaving for his native place of Hubballi, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai continued to claim that the BJP would get full majority.

KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar too expressed scepticism over the exit polls, and said, "We are confident of touching 141 seats," Mr. Shivakuamr said, before leaving for a pilgrimage visit to Arunachalam in Tamil Nadu.

Seeking to downplay the BJP's hints of poaching MLAs from the rival camps to form its government, Mr. Shivakumar said, "Such a possibility will not arise as the Congress is set to register a big victory." However, sources in the Congress said the senior leaders were not leaving anything to chance and were monitoring the situation and steps would be taken for the safe flock-keeping, if need be.

On its part, the JD(S) is hoping to touch 35 to 38 seats, which will increase the possibility of the party becoming a kingmaker.

Read more of our coverage:
Constituency Profiles: A primer
bit.ly/karprimer

Gap between men and women voters has steadily declined in State

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

In over three decades of electoral politics in the State, the participation of women in voting has steadily improved with the gap between male and female electors having drastically reduced. While the gap between the male and female voting percentage was 6.84 points in 1989, it shrank to just 0.98 points in the elections held on Wednesday.

Since 2008 when the gap between male and female electors participating in the polls was 3.1 percentage points (pp), it came down progressively to 1.93 pp in 2013 and 1.15 pp in 2018. In terms of numbers, the gap between male and female electors who cast their vote, which was 14.19 lakh in 1989, has now come down to less than 5 lakh. If in 1989, 70.91% of male voters and 64.07% of female voters cast their votes, the gap reduced in 2023 when 73.68% of male voters and 72.70% of female voters exercised their franchise. On Wednesday, while 1,91,92,372 or 72.7% of registered female electors voted, 1,96,58,398 or 73.68% of the total 2,66,82,156 male voters cast their votes.

In places such as Bengaluru, the number of women who voted was higher than that of men. On average, 55.69% of total female electors voted in comparison with 53.47% male voters.

In Dakshina Kannada, 76.56% of the total female voters cast their vote as against 75.93% of the total male voters. As many as 84.82% of the total female electors cast their votes in Udupi in comparison with 76.84% male voters.

Growing steadily

"The women voters' addition to the electoral list is also growing faster than male voters. From 2013 elections to 2018 elections, 36 lakh female voters and 22 lakh male voters were added to the list. Between 2018 and 2023, 15 lakh female electors and 11 lakh male electors were added," Venkatesh Thogarighatta, a political consultant, said on the rising importance of women voters in electoral politics.

The increasing participation of women in the poll process would have a significant impact on political parties and their strategies, he added.

Women-centric move

The reducing gap between the genders and the increasing importance of women voters can also be gauged by the fact that politicians come up with women-specific programmes ahead of elections.

While women were sent on pilgrimages or participated in mass Lakshmi pujas, organised by politicians before the elections, the distribution of saris, watches, cookers, and other kitchen utensils have also increased in recent years.

A Congress functionary said the fact that there were women-centric guarantees by the party was essentially meant to attract women electors, who are in a significant number. "While earlier, women electors would cast their vote based on advice/direction from their male family members, it is not so in most regions now. They take the decision independently and in a large number of cases do not discuss their preference. Women are also in a way silent voters," the Congress functionary said.

The LPG cylinder price became an issue in this election and every party had freebies to offer as it is ultimately the women, who suffer, and their votes really matter, he added.

Declining gap between male and female electors' voting trends

1989 elections			
Male voters	1,46,38,461	votes polled: 1,03,79,972	70.91%
Female voters:	1,39,85,552	votes polled: 89,60,070	64.07%
Gap: 6.84 percentage points			
1994 elections			
Male voters:	1,57,11,580	votes polled: 1,11,87933	71.21%
Female voters:	1,51,23,835	votes polled: 99,62,033	65.87%
Gap: 5.33 percentage points			
1999 elections			
Male voters:	1,74, 47, 578	votes polled: 1,23, 21,745	70.62%
Female voters:	1,68,36, 520	votes polled: 1,08,72,538	64.58%
Gap: 6.04 percentage points			
2004 elections			
Male voters:	1,96,02,374	votes polled: 1,31,43,421	67.05%
Female voters:	1,89,84,380	votes polled: 1,19,45,017	62.92%
Gap: 4.13 percentage points			
2008 elections			
Male voters:	2,05,51,086	votes polled: 1,36,05,635	66.2 %
Female voters:	1,98,12,639	votes polled: 1,25,01,931	63.1%
Gap: 3.1 percentage points			
2013 elections			
Male voters:	2,23,15,727	votes polled: 1,61,55,714	72.4%
Female voters:	2,13,67,912	votes polled: 1,50,57,361	70.47%
Gap: 1.93 percentage points			
2018 elections			
Male voters:	2,55,99.295	votes polled: 1,86,04,558	72.68%
Female voters:	2,49,10,888	votes polled: 1,78,18,310	71.53%
Gap: 1.15 percentage points			
2023 elections			
Male voters:	2,66,82,156	votes polled: 1,96,58,398	73.68%
Female voters:	2,63,98,483	votes polled: 1,91,92,372	72.7%
Gap: 0.98 percentage points			

Victory margin was highest in coastal Karnataka in 2018

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With the average victory margin for the State recorded at 18,330 votes in the 2018 Assembly elections, the average victory margins varied between regions.

While average victory margins in Kalyana Karnataka (12,833 votes) and Kittur Karnataka (14,588) remained lower than the State average, the average victory margins in Central Karnataka (18,691 votes), Old Mysore (20,924 votes), Coastal Karnataka (24,929 votes), and Bengaluru (24,828) were above the State average.

Incidentally, most South Karnataka districts that registered a high voting percentage also reported high victory margins while many districts in North Karnataka that reported lower turnout than South Karnataka districts reported lower victory margins.

Average victory margins across regions in 2018

Overall State average	18,330
Kalyana Karnataka	12,833
Kittur Karnataka	14,588
Central Karnataka	18,691
Old Mysore	20,924
Bengaluru city	24,828
Coastal Karnataka	24,929

BJP will form govt. even if it does not get majority: Lakhan

His brother and KPCC working president Satish Jarkiholi dismissed the possibility of 'Operation Lotus' and said Congress would get full majority

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The BJP will form the government in Karnataka even if the party does not get a majority, Lakhan Jarkiholi, MLC, said on Friday.

Mr. Lakhan Jarkiholi is the younger brother of Ramesh Jarkiholi, former Minister and BJP leader.

Though he was elected as an Independent, he has been supporting his brother's campaign.

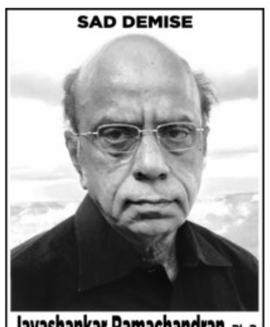
"We will form the government even if we get just 80 seats. What happened in Goa will happen in Karnataka," he told journalists in Gokak.

His brother and KPCC working president Satish Jarkiholi dismissed possibility of 'Operation Lotus'. "The question of any such an operation does not arise as the Congress will gain the full majority and form the government. Anyway, Operation Lotus does not succeed all the time," he responded to a query by journalists.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

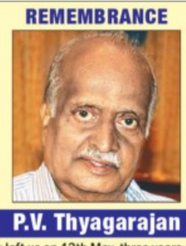
SAD DEMISE



Jayashankar Ramachandran Ph.D
(Former Dean of ICPE and professor at Maastricht School of Management)
Reached Swami's lotus feet on May 11, 2023 in Iowa, USA.
Deeply mourned by: Wife Radhika, Son Aditya, Daughter Priyanka Jayashankar, Son in law Baskar, Grandsons Akshay & Advait & Brothers Ramesh, Ramakrishnan & Their Families.
Whatsapp: +1 (607) 319-9334 / +91 85278 89278

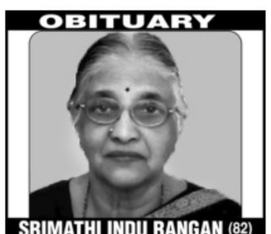
DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

REMEMBRANCE



P.V. Thyagarajan
You left us on 13th May, three years ago. You may be gone from our sight, but you are never gone from heart. The wonderful memories we have with you are a solace forever to us.
Fondly Remembered by
Wife: Indira Thyagarajan
Daughters: Janani, Geetha
Sons-in-law: Kumar, Prakash
Son: Karthik, Daughter-in-law: Samaya & Grandchildren

OBITUARY



SRIMATHI INDU RANGAN (82)
W/o. Late. K. Kasturi Rangan attained Acharyan Thiruvadi on 12.05.2023 morning at her residence in Shenoy Nagar. She is survived by two sons, a daughter and their families. Funeral today evening.
Ct.75985 17551

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Betting mania grips people ahead of results

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

It is not just the candidates who are anxious about the results of the Legislative Assembly elections when the counting of votes will be taken up on Saturday. There are thousands of people who have turned punters by placing bets on the poll outcome and are looking foward to the results.

The bets reportedly range from a few thousand rupees to even lakhs, besides agricultural fields and vehicles.

The betting is on not just the victory of candidates in particular Assembly constituencies, but also on the tally of seats that will be won by the Congress, the BJP or the JD(S), the party that will form the government or if the JD(S) will emerge as a kingmaker.

A photo of a document going viral in WhatsApp groups in Mysuru throws light on an agreement between two parties on a ₹5 lakh bet on who will emerge victorious in the H.D. Kote Assembly constituency.

According to the document, one party has predicted the victory of the Congress candidate while the other party is of the opinion that the JD(S) candidate will win. Both have deposited ₹5 lakh each with a third party and the winner will take home ₹10 lakh. In the event of a BJP victory, both the parties will take their respective ₹5 lakh.

In another case, a person is believed to have placed a bet on the JD(S) tally crossing 25 seats.

According to sources, high-profile constituencies such as Varuna, from where the former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is in the fray, has also attracted the attention of punters.

With betting being illegal, the Mysuru city police have constituted a team of the City Crime Branch (CCB) to look into the matter. "We have constituted a CCB team to look into the issue," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Muthuraj.

Meanwhile, political observers said people display their support for a particular candidate or party by challenging others to place a bet in the regard.

Panel to study medicos' issues

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

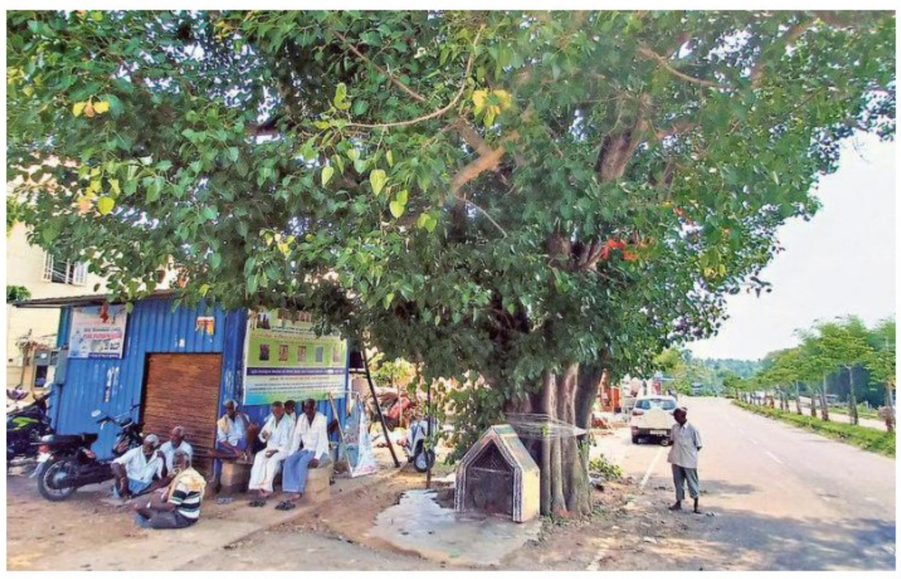
The Kerala government will set up a committee under the Secretary, Medical Education, to study workplace and work-related issues raised by house surgeons and PG medical students. The committee will submit its report in a month, Health Minister Veena George said on Friday.

She announced this after talks with house surgeons and PG medicos, who refused to call off their strike on Thursday demanding that the Health Minister give them a patient hearing and that they needed more than mere promises about their workplace safety.

Election hangover keeps farmers away from their land

According to one farmer, apart from the poll hangover, money has been distributed in good measure by all political parties, and hence workers are taking it easy

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU



A group of farmers huddled at K. Hemmanahalli on the Mysuru-Gaddige Road discussing the Karnataka Assembly elections, on Friday. M.A. SRIRAM

The elections are over, the results will be out on Saturday May 13, and it is business as usual in urban areas. But the hangover from the prolonged campaigning and election exercise continues to impact farmers, and the bulk of the rural populace where the turnout was also higher than in urban regions.

This is evident in the small and large group of farmers sticking together underneath a tree or in the verandah, and discussing the pros and cons of the victory of the BJP or the Congress, or the possibility of a fractured mandate, and its impact on the farming community.

As a result, farming activity has been considerably affected. Most workers have stayed away from agricultural work, as the suspense over the results has kept them on tenterhooks.

Moderate to heavy rains that lashed parts of Mysuru, Mandya and Chamarajanagar districts in the last few days should ideally have triggered agricultural activity in the region, with farmers taking to the fields.

But not so this year, despite south interior Karnataka receiving 70 mm of rainfall against a normal of 25 mm for the period from May 1st to 10th. The departure from normal is 176% and was ideal for farmers to prepare the fields for tilling before sowing activity could commence. "Not only are the farmers busy discussing the elections, but there is enough informal betting going on in most villages. This election hangover will prevail till the results are out on Saturday May 13, and will subside by Sunday May 14. Agricultural and farm work will gain traction only from Monday May 15," said Kurubur Shanthakumar, president, Sugarcane Cultivators' Association.

About 15 km from Mysuru, a group of farmers are huddled by a roadside bus stop at K. Hemmanahalli, on the road to Gaddige, animatedly discussing the fortunes of the candidates. When interrupted, they break into a friendly smile and say people are deeply involved in politics, and a majority have taken a break from work.

"But this craving to debate politics will dissipate by Sunday afternoon...," according Jayakumar, a farmer from K. Hemmanahalli. But before he could complete the sentence, the group again drifts back into politics and debate how a victory for Congress is more beneficial to them.

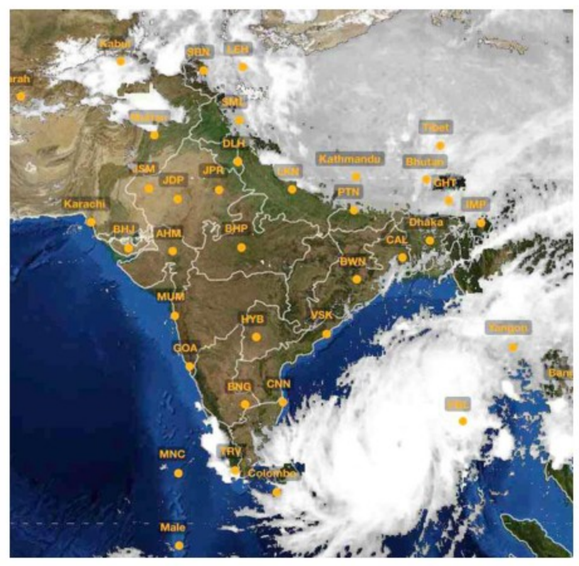
Further down the road at Beerihundi, a few km away from the main road, another group of farmers was discussing the fracas between the Congress and the Janata Dal (Secular).

"Any vote for the Congress is due to the Siddaramaiah factor, and not because of the candidate," explained Mahadeva who owns a few acres of land and cultivates ragi (millet) in rain-fed conditions. ''But the Congress candidate went missing for two days, and there is an internal adjustment to ensure victory for the JD(S)," butted in Shivanna of Beerihundi.

Atahalli Devaraj, secretary of sugarcane farmers' association, said apart from the election hangover, money has also been distributed in good measure by all political parties, and hence the workers are taking it easy. ''But the economic reality will bite from Monday, forcing people to head back to work," he added.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 19.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, coastal Karnataka, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	36.6	25.5	Kozhikode	21	35.2	26.7
Ahmedabad	—	44.4	27.1	Kurnool	0.1	40.6	27.9
Aizawl	—	35.1	21.0	Lucknow	—	40.0	21.5
Allahabad	—	41.6	21.8	Madurai	1	36.4	24.1
Bengaluru	13.4	32.4	20.9	Mangaluru	8	33.8	23.7
Bhopal	—	42.0	23.4	Mumbai	—	35.2	27.0
Bhubaneswar	—	37.2	26.8	Mysuru	12	34.1	21.0
Chandigarh	—	41.1	20.2	New Delhi	—	42.5	19.3
Chennai	—	39.1	28.4	Patna	—	39.7	22.2
Coimbatore	5	34.8	25.4	Port Blair	17	31.5	24.1
Dehradun	—	36.8	18.4	Puducherry	—	37.9	28.1
Gangtok	—	22.3	14.5	Pune	—	40.6	25.1
Goa	—	35.4	28.4	Raipur	—	40.0	24.6
Guwahati	—	33.6	22.8	Ranchi	—	37.5	22.4
Hubballi	—	37.0	23.0	Shillong	0.8	25.2	15.4
Hyderabad	—	38.7	24.5	Shimla	—	25.6	16.6
Imphal	—	34.3	20.4	Srinagar	—	27.0	8.7
Jaipur	—	42.5	26.3	Thiruvananthapuram	4	33.0	24.3
Kochi	—	32.0	26.8	Tiruchi	8	35.7	26.0
Kohima	—	24.4	16.9	Vijayawada	—	38.2	28.8
Kolkata	—	35.6	28.0	Visakhapatnam	—	35.0	28.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.32	..97	.30	...203	...160	
Bengaluru	.26	..11	100	60	71	
Chennai	.37	..30	...2	...132	...126	
Delhi	.32	240	110	...245	...306	
Hyderabad	...7	..18	.32	...126	...127	
Kolkata	...5	..20	.18	48	73	
Lucknow	...9	..75	.34	...240	...200	
Mumbai	.42	..73	127	...178	...116	
Pune	107	149	117	...126	...100	
Visakhapatnam	.16	..35	.14	34	56	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 301 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 19

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

4 elephants electrocuted in A.P. village

The Hindu Bureau
PARVATIPURAM

Four elephants were electrocuted in Katgradda village of Parvatipuram-Manyam district, Andhra Pradesh, in the early hours of Friday. According to reports, four elephants of a six-member herd accidentally touched an unprotected electric transformer, leading to their death.

The six elephants had recently entered Andhra Pradesh forest area from Odisha. The government wanted to create an elephant zone for the existing eight elephants and six that came from Odisha.

Forest officials expressed concern over the lack of a protection wall for the transformer.

A different pitch

The helipad at the Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy Cricket Stadium being used by budding cricketers for practice during the ongoing summer coaching camp in Visakhapatnam on Friday. V. RAJU

Air Force authorities transfer land for suburban rail project at Jalahalli

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

On Friday, Air Force authorities and Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Ltd. (K-RIDE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for transfer of the latter's land at Jalahalli for the Bengaluru suburban rail project. The land is required for execution of corridor-2 (Mallige line) of the project from Benniganahalli to Chikkabanavara.

A press release by K-RIDE stated that the corridor-2 project has "transited from drawing board to execution phase." Defence land at multiple locations such as Banaswadi Garrison, Airforce Jalahalli, and CQAE Yeshwantpur were identified for the first phase of the suburban rail project.

"The construction involving land acquisition, boundary wall construction, and various other preliminary works such as survey works, Geo-Technical Investigation, and Ground Penetration Report (GPR) have been completed," said the release.

"The establishment of the batching plant is underway at three locations such as Jalahalli, Hebbal, and Benniganahalli, with the Jalahalli batching plant expected to commence operation soon. The land for the casting yard has been identified and finalised, with preliminary activities underway. The land for the casting yard was identified and finalised by the contractor and preliminary activities at the casting yard are underway," it added.

The release further stated that the Environment and Social Impact Assessment study has been completed. Test piles at two locations near Hebbal and Yeshwantpur have been completed and testing activities are in progress and will be conducted in the coming week.

The SWR has transferred 157 acres of railway lands for the project. K-RIDE has also completed the acquisition of 5.11 acres of private land, claims the release-. Land measuring 2.72 acres owned by BWSSB and other government agencies have also been transferred. However, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) is yet to transfer 5.01 acres of land identified by K-RIDE.

Dredging and desilting pose threat to Olive Ridleys as they return to Kerala's Thottappally for nesting

Sam Paul A.
ALAPPUZHA

Braving hostile conditions, Olive Ridley turtles have crawled to the Thottappally coast in Kerala's Alappuzha in good numbers this season.

According to turtle conservationists, a record number of 21 nests with over 2,000 eggs have been found between Thottappally harbour and Pallana so far, compared to 12 a year ago. Among the nests, four were found in a small area between Thottappally harbour and Thottappally pozhi (sandbar at sea mouth) despite disturbances caused by 'mineral sand-mining'. Conservationists also stumbled upon three nests a few metres south of the pozhi. The remaining 14 were found at Pallana.

Last year, Olive Ridleys had given Thottappally, including the area between the harbour and pozhi, a complete miss as all the nests were found at Pallana.

'A grave threat'

"Of the 21 clutches, which is a recent record, we could count eggs in 19 nests. The eggs in two nests were hatched before we noticed them. We have been able to let around 1,200 hatchlings from 19 clutches into the sea this season. Three clutches are in the incubation stage," says Saji Jayamohan, secretary, Green Roots Nature Conservation Forum.

In spite of recording one of the highest Olive Ridley nesting on the coast, members of the Thottappally-based conservation group and local residents involved are worried.

An olive ridley turtle nesting close to the Thottappally harbour in Alappuzha in February this year. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

They say the opening of two mineral sand-mining sites at the harbour and pozhi, which government describes as 'maintenance dredging' and 'desilting' respectively, continue to pose a grave threat to the nesting of turtles.

Beach width reduced

According to them, the shore from Thottappally to Pallana, considered a natural nesting habitat of Olive Ridleys, is fast disappearing. "In many places, the width of the nesting beaches has been reduced from 45 metres to 30 metres or even lower due to severe sea erosion. The dredging and desilting along with the construction of breakwaters all play a significant role in the destruction of the natural habitat of Olive Ridleys, which are legally protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972," says Mr. Jayamohan.

Maoist surrenders in Telangana

The Hindu Bureau
KARIMNAGAR/
BHADRADRI
KOTHAGUDEM

Member of the banned CPI (Maoist) District Committee and press in-charge of Telangana State Committee Nerella Jyothi alias Jyothakka, 38, carrying a reward of ₹5 lakh on her head, surrendered before Karimnagar Police Commissioner L. Subbarayudu here on Friday. She hails from Shivangulapalli village in Konaraopet mandal of Rajanna Sircilla district.

Ms. Jyothi had joined the outfit while studying Intermediate second year in Government junior college in Sircilla in 2004, police said.

Police said she parted ways with the CPI (Maoist) party disillusioned with 'hollow' Maoist ideology and 'discrimination' against women cadre.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
FISHERIES AND FISHERMEN WELFARE DEPARTMENT
Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav
REOI Ref. No.03/DB/F-114N/2023 Dated:11.05.2023
Establishment of Ornamental Fish Trade Centre at International Standards in Kolathur, Chennai under Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mode

Tamil Nadu Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department invites Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) from Private players for Construction and Maintenance of Ornamental Fish Trade Centre at International Standards in Kolathur, Chennai under Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mode. The Schedule of important dates are as follows:

Date of Issue of REOI Documents	18.05.2023 @ 05.00 PM
Application Due Date and Time	14.06.2023 @ 05.00 PM
Opening Date and Time	15.06.2023 @ 05.00 PM

For Detailed Request for Expression of Interest, Please visit: https://tntenders.gov.in
DIPR/2566/Tender/2023
Chief Engineer, Fishing Harbour Project Circle, Chennai-35.
'சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்'

Asymmetry, power

Top court ruling on services is a boost for representative government in Delhi

Asymmetric federalism has been a positive feature of India's polity, but even the most pragmatic arrangement may not always guarantee harmonious relations between the Centre and its constituent units. The wrangling between the Union government and the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) has been an endless saga for years, and the Supreme Court has repeatedly sought to lay down the terms of their relationship in the way the territory is governed. In the latest verdict, a Constitution Bench has ruled that the elected government does indeed have control over administrative services. However, it is limited to services related to the extent of its current executive and legislative powers, which extend to all subjects under the State and Concurrent Lists, except for the three excluded ones – public order, police and land. The Centre's argument, that in the absence of a Public Services Commission for Delhi and in view of the phrase "insofar as such matter is applicable to Union Territories" the subject of 'services' will not fall under the Delhi government's remit, was rejected. The Court's unanimous verdict rejects the attempt to read the phrase as one that imposes an additional limitation on its legislative and executive powers. The Court has emphasised the *sui generis* nature of Delhi, so that its Union Territory status is not used to limit the role of the elected government. The five-judge Bench ruling again underlines the principle that a representative regime should not be undermined by an unelected administrator.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who has been embroiled in a prolonged tussle with the Lieutenant Governor over several issues, will be elated with the Court's ruling that "the involvement of the Union of India in the administration of NCTD is limited by constitutional provisions, and any further expansion would be contrary to the constitutional scheme of governance". However, even yet another Constitution Bench verdict underscoring the representative character of the GNCTD may not be enough to end the underlying power struggle in Delhi, as long as the Centre continues with its efforts to clip the powers of the government because of its antagonism towards the Aam Aadmi Party. It is five years since the Court observed that constitutional trust between high functionaries is needed to resolve matters, but there is no sign of the conflict abating. In practical terms, the provisions of the GNCTD (Amendment) Act, 2021, which sought to strengthen the hand of the Lt. Governor in running Delhi, may continue to be a source of conflict. The validity of its provisions is also under challenge before the Supreme Court, an indication that the legal tussle is hardly over.

Welcome initiative

AYUSH collaboration with ICMR for scientific validation is right step

In a welcome move, the Ministry of AYUSH and ICMR have at last joined hands to undertake quality human clinical trials to generate evidence on the benefits of using ayurveda along with modern medicine (evidence-based medicine) in treating certain disease conditions of national importance. With its decades of experience in conducting human clinical trials, it makes eminent sense to rope in the ICMR to design and conduct these trials. To begin with, the collaboration will be restricted to ayurveda. The other systems of AYUSH – yoga, unani, siddha and homoeopathy – may be included, and each system will be tested together with modern medicine when the central councils of the respective AYUSH systems are ready to work with the ICMR. An expert committee will soon decide the area/disease conditions to be included for detailed clinical testing using both ayurveda and modern medicine. Initially, clinical trials for each disease may have two arms – modern medicine as the standard of care as well as a combination of modern medicine and ayurveda. The arm that uses both ayurveda and modern medicine will, if at all, only be able to validate the superiority of combining the two for better outcomes. Scientific validation of superior outcomes of combined therapy using ayurveda and modern medicine will form the basis on which integrated medicine will be offered to patients. Encouraging trial outcomes might probably serve as a starting point to undertake further trials using ayurveda interventions alone to evaluate their effectiveness and understand the mechanism of action; this is currently not within the ambit of the agreement.

While the initiative may right away not provide scientific validation of ayurveda interventions in treating disease conditions when used singularly, it is the first major step in evidence-based approach of validating medical interventions. Though trials using ayurveda and other systems of AYUSH have been conducted in the country, they suffer from major limitations, thus making the outcomes meaningless. The ICMR's expertise is sure to help in overcoming the major obstacle in scientific validation, which all systems of AYUSH currently suffer from. Evidence, as the practitioners of AYUSH refer to, is nothing but anecdotal, which is not an alternative to evidence-based approach. Lack of scientific validation, as a stand-alone intervention or as adjunct to modern medicine, has been the bane of alternative medicine in India. No sincere, large-scale attempts have been made to address this serious shortcoming. The collaboration with the ICMR is, therefore, a step in the right direction.

Welfare spending has been getting a regular pruning

Fizza Suhel

is a Research Associate at the Center for research on the Economics of Climate, Food, Energy and Environment (CECFEE) Indian Statistical Institute

Mohit Verma

is a Research Associate at Good Business Lab

An analysis of the trend of welfare expenditure on key schemes and sectors since 2014 is revealing

This year's Union Budget was criticised by experts over a decline in allocations for welfare schemes in real terms, at a time of post-COVID-19 recovery when welfare spending should have been a priority. Similarly, last year's Budget too ignored social spending in favour of capital expenditure.

The analysis below, based on Budget papers, shows that the trend of declining central government spending on critical social schemes is not new, having begun when the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government came to power in 2014. Since then, central allocations for welfare schemes and sectors that ensure basic rights have declined as a proportion of GDP.

Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 aims to address child malnutrition and hunger. From 2021-22, the Anganwadi programme (ICDS) was merged with POSHAN Abhiyaan and a nutrition scheme for adolescent girls. Even with more components, its allocation went down from 0.13% of GDP in 2014-15 to 0.07% in 2023-24 – almost half of what it was.

According to National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5 data, the percentage of anaemic, underweight and stunted children in India is 67%, 32% and 36%, respectively, which is among the worst in the world. Yet, funds meant to address malnutrition are being slashed with abandon.

Another important nutrition scheme is the mid-day meal (MDM) scheme, covering almost 12 crore children. Evidence shows that the scheme has led to an improvement in class attendance, learning as well as nutritional outcomes and reduced stunting in children. However, the Budget allocation for MDM decreased by 50% as a share of GDP, from 0.08% in 2014-15 to 0.04% in 2023-2024. In 2021 the Ministry of Finance rejected a breakfast at school plan citing funds constraint, a plan that has shown promising results in Tamil Nadu within a year.

Lastly, the PM Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) provides maternity benefits as a conditional cash transfer of ₹5,000 to women in the unorganised sector. To cover all women and births as per the National Food Security Act (NFSA) mandate, the scheme needs around ₹14,000 crore, but the PMMVY Budget is yet to cross ₹3,000 crore.

Working class distress worsens

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and NFSA (Food Subsidy) have also declined as a share of GDP since 2014. MGNREGA guarantees 100 days of employment to every rural household whereas the NFSA provides subsidised grains to over 80 crore people.

MGNREGA expenditure as a share of GDP went from 0.26% in 2014-15 to 0.20% in 2023-24. For NFSA it went to 0.65% this year from 0.94% in 2014-15. As experts point out, MGNREGA and the Public Distribution System were key to averting disaster during the pandemic. Both schemes saw record demand in 2020-21; MGNREGA saw 8.55 crore households avail employment, while Public Distribution System (PDS) grain offtake was 93 million tonnes, leading to an expenditure of 2.73% and 0.56% of GDP on NFSA and MGNREGA, respectively. However, since 2020-21, NFSA and MGNREGA allocations have declined rapidly as a share of GDP.

As the economist, Jean Drèze, highlighted recently, real wages of casual workers grew at less than 1% per year from 2014-15 to 2021-22 according to Reserve Bank of India data. Prof. Drèze argues that this worrying trend calls for a reorientation of economic policies, with a sharper focus on drivers of wage growth.

The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is a scheme that provides pensions to the elderly, widows, and disabled individuals below the poverty line and monetary assistance to families that have lost a breadwinner. As a share of GDP, its allocations went down from 0.06% in 2014-15 to 0.03% in 2023-24. The share steadily declined over this period except for 2020-21 when it was 0.21% with COVID relief in cash included in the NSAP.

The NSAP cuts go against advice from 60-odd economists who have been urging the government for long to increase the paltry pension amounts of ₹200 per month for the elderly and ₹300 for widows. The pensions have not increased since 2006.

As a share of GDP, central expenditure on school education (primary and secondary) has steadily declined from 0.37% in 2014-15 to 0.23% 2023-24. It is surprising to see no increase here even after the pandemic which had catastrophic effects including a surge in primary dropout rates because of over 70 weeks of school closures – double the global average.

Only marginal health-care gains

Health-care expenditure, unlike others, rose under the NDA government. The share of central health expenditure in GDP went up from 0.25% in 2014-15 to 0.30% this year. While this is a welcome change, it is too little too late in a post-COVID world.

According to the latest State of the World's Children report by UNICEF, India has the lowest vaccination rates in South Asia. Furthermore, India's out-of-pocket expenditure on health remains much higher than the global average, pushing millions into poverty each year.

For these schemes/sectors for which comparable data was available, the allocations saw a noticeable increase from 2004-05 to 2013-14. The share of GDP remained stable for MDM, food subsidy and health care, tripled for ICDS, doubled for NSAP, and increased by 45% for school education with a combined increase from 1.48% of GDP in 2004-05 to 1.8% in 2014-15. But then it dropped to 1.32% this year under the NDA government.

On the other hand, the NDA government was relatively successful in delivering tangible goods – a policy paradigm Subramanian *et al.* (2021) refer to as the New Welfarism of the Right. They show that considerable progress has been made in access to cooking fuel, electricity, and financial inclusion of women, with an accelerated pace of improvement since 2015. The authors argue that there are rich electoral gains in new welfarism as tangible goods and services are easier to deliver, monitor, and attribute to the central government when compared with traditional government services such as primary education and child nutrition.

A stagnant HDI rank

It is only fair to expect that as a country's GDP grows, its expenditure on welfare programmes should grow proportionately. In fact, going by international experience, the share of social expenditure in GDP should be rising over time in India. The vital importance of social security programmes was acknowledged by the government when it raised the Budget allocation for all the aforementioned schemes during the pandemic year to 4.3% of GDP; but we are now back to just 1.5%.

According to the World Social Protection Report by the International Labour Organization, only 24.8% of Indians are covered by at least one social security scheme against the Asia-Pacific average of 44%. Its result can be clearly seen in India's stagnant Human Development Index rank at 132 and rising malnutrition levels. It is difficult for India to be a superpower with an uneducated and unhealthy population.

If fiscal prudence is a worry, we suggest the government recover the ₹4.3 lakh crore of revenue foregone due to tax concessions during NDA-1 and another ₹1.85 lakh crore foregone between 2019-21 after lowering corporate tax rates in 2019.

Diagnostic imaging of the Rajasthan Right to Health Act

Dr. Soham D. Bhaduri

a health policy and leadership specialist, is chief editor of 'The Indian Practitioner'

A look at why the Rajasthan Right To Health Act cannot be an ideal precedent for other States

The Rajasthan Right to Health (RTH) Bill, which became an Act in April, had caused a bitter row following which the State government agreed on some exclusions. Many doctors termed the Act draconian, while public health activists have largely stood by it. But there are certain aspects of the Act that have attracted little discussion, which also make it unfit to be an ideal precedent for other States.

Iterations, before and after

Comparing the two iterations of the RTH Bill, one before and another after the select committee review, is a good starting point for a review. The primary iteration was sent for the select committee's review in 2022, and the amended Bill was passed on March 21, 2023, which stoked protests. Even a cursory review brings out how the amended version, which sparked the row, was itself a highly moderated version attuned strongly to the interests of the medical community.

Following the select committee amendments, some definitions (accidental emergency, emergency care, and first aid), were added to the Bill. In addition, the term 'designated health care centres' was introduced, and a reimbursement clause for unpaid emergency care was added. These additions are commendable. However, most other changes in the amended Bill were not so salutary at least as far as protecting public health interests is concerned.

This shows, foremost, in the renewed composition of the State and district health authorities. For the State health authority, the initial iteration included three representatives, from ayurveda, homoeopathy, and unani, as ex-officio members. Instead, the amended Bill had provision for only one representative from the alternative medical systems, with medical education representatives filling for the remaining two. What is even more striking is that the amended Bill swapped public health/hospital management experts with Indian Medical Association (IMA) representatives as nominated members. This leaves these authorities with little or no representation from the public health fraternity and, most importantly, from the community for which the Act is aimed.

Further, the powers of the administration organs were significantly circumscribed in the amended Bill. The grievance redress system proposed in the initial iteration was also significantly overhauled in the amended Bill. Initially proposed to be handled through web portals, helpline centres, and officers concerned within 24 hours, patient grievances will now be handled by the very health-care institution in question within three days. This introduces conspicuous conflicts of interest. That apart, it stands to compound the administrative burden of hospitals. This predisposes patient grievances to being sloppily or perfunctorily handled, and more often than not, being settled informally.

Health legislation embraces not just curative medical care but also health promotion, disease prevention, and important social determinants such as nutrition, which have a stronger bearing on health than medical care. The current RTH Act lacking in public health representation is ill positioned to achieve these ends or to serve as a template for other States or a pan-India legislation. Coming now to the memorandum of understanding which made the Bill somewhat palatable for doctor associations. The State government has assured that private multispecialty hospitals with less than 50 beds, and those that have not availed of concessions or subsidised land/buildings from the government, will be kept out of the ambit of the law, even if temporarily. It effectively excludes the plethora of small and medium hospitals which predominate in the health-care landscape, particularly outside the urban agglomerations. Contrast this with the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) – the U.S. legislation ensuring public access to emergency care – which covers 98% of hospitals.

The prognosis

Despite being a moderate Bill, some of the objections calling for an in-toto repeal have been rather frivolous, for instance, over the ambiguous definitions of some terms such as 'emergency'. Medical-legal definitions are perennially given to ambiguities, and even widely accepted definitions are typically imprecise and replete with ambiguities. It only behoves all parties in such cases to work together to arrive at the best elaboration, rather than demanding an outright repeal of a Bill with far-reaching implications for public health beyond just emergency care. Again, the EMTALA example shows that some residual ambiguities are irredeemable and are routinely navigated using risk-benefit and reasonable confidence principles.

The foremost lesson for the state is that such legal pronouncements should be meticulously drafted to pre-empt opposition from arising in the first place. Second, for any true health legislation to arise, the government has to keep away from being swayed by organised medical interests alone. The common subtext of most medical protests has been that private medical practice should be as *laissez-faire* as possible, which is incompatible with equitable, universal health care. Governments and the medical community should sensitise themselves to the broader social dimensions of health and health legislation. Last, but not the least, governments should realise that getting onto such radical pieces of legislation without threshold levels of enough financial preparedness can backfire, as it is the state's obligation to provide health care, and not that of health-care providers by disregarding their own livelihood.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Maharashtra politics

In modern Indian politics, ethics and morals are non-existent ingredients in the 'peaceful transfer of power' recipe that has been successfully applied in different States across the country, which includes Maharashtra.

In this context, it is too much to expect our politicians to change gears and arrive at big decisions such as resignations from their 'hard-earned' posts based on moral values applicable to ordinary mortals (Inside pages, "Shinde, Fadnavis must quit on moral grounds, says Uddhav", May 12). It seems if politicians are skilled enough to invert the emerging reality after the top court's verdict, then there is almost nothing that can stop them from holding posts that they are not supposed to hold. It remains to be seen precisely how much time is a "reasonable period" for the Speaker to "decide on the disqualification petitions" (Inside pages, "All eyes now on Speaker Narwekar for a decision on disqualification petitions", May 12).

A. Venkatasubramanian,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

A favourite, from Palani

The article on the long process involved in the preparation of the temple *prasadam* of the Sri Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Palani, and the meticulous way in which temple staff and others go about the task of procuring and preparing the quality ingredients was a delight to read ('Tamil Nadu InFocus' page, May 12). Though the scale of production and sale of this GI tag *panchamirtham* pales into insignificance when compared with that of the Tirupati *laddu*, sales of the product from Palani can still be enhanced by opening sales outlets in major towns in Tamil Nadu.

K. Chellappan,
Chennai

I hope there is an article soon on the sugar *pongal* of the Sri Parthasarathy temple, which is another crowd puller. Efforts must be made by the authorities concerned to curb the sale of spurious food items near places of worship in the name of "prasadam".

A.J. Rangarajan,
Chennai

'Problem' elephants

There have been a number of reports of late, of adult wild elephants finding themselves in conflict situations with humans, the latest case being wild elephant Karuppan. The solution seems to be capturing the elephants and translocating them to another forest area many hundreds of kilometres away. It is not always possible to move 'problem' elephants in this manner, from one place to another. It is time that the local populations, the authorities and the experts discuss the issue and ensure that there is a sustainable solution.

Rohitha Suresh,
Ettumanoor, Kottayam, Kerala

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Tragedy at Tanur

Last Sunday, a boat packed with local tourists beyond its capacity capsized in the Poorappuzha estuary in Tanur in Malappuram district of Kerala. Abdul Latheef Naha and John L. Paul report on the tragedy, which claimed 22 lives, including 11 from just one family, and the continuing failure of the State in enforcing safety norms

Teams of the Navy and the National Disaster Response Force search for survivors the morning after the boat, named 'Atlantic', capsized in the Poorappuzha estuary in Tanur, Malappuram district. SAKEER HUSSAIN

On May 7, at 7.30 in the evening, fisherman Kunnummal Saidalavi was relaxing at home in Puthankadappuram when he got a call. A friend, who sounded frantic, was on the line. He told Saidalavi that a boat had capsized in the Poorappuzha estuary in Tanur. Filled with dread knowing that his wife and four children were among the passengers, Saidalavi rushed to the estuary, located about 10 km away. On reaching the bank of the river, he clambered into a vessel to help in rescue efforts. While he searched the dark waters anxiously, a diver suddenly thrust a body into his arms. It was his 13-year-old daughter, Shafna. Saidalavi's wails pierced the darkness.

For a minute, even those scrambling through the rescue efforts stopped. "Those wails made us all weep. It was too much to bear," says Harshad Cheruvath, a resident of the area. "He was crying saying, 'This is my child; the others are in the water. I can't leave without them,'" he recalls.

Just about an hour earlier, the boat, named *Atlantic*, carrying about 40 passengers, had capsized in Poorappuzha, a tributary of Kadalundipuzha. The tragedy took place near a newly developed tourist spot along the coast. Cheruvath says the local people and personnel from the Department of Fire and Rescue Services struggled to reach the passengers trapped inside the boat, which was resting on the muddy riverbed. Twenty-two people, including 15 children and five women, lost their lives in the incident near Thooval Theeram beach. All the passengers were from Malappuram district. Nearly half the passengers who lost their lives were from fisher families.

A day later, an eerie silence shrouds Saidalavi's ramshackle dwelling at Puthankadappuram. Visitors stream in and out, expressing their sympathy and offering support. Saidalavi and his younger brother Siraj, who is also a fisherman, are in shock. Both of them have lost their wives and all their children. Their sister, too, lost her two children in the tragedy.

While Siraj, the blood seemingly drained from his face, sits quietly, Saidalavi regrets that his children did not heed his warning. He says they called him excitedly from the boat to tell him that they had been given a lucrative offer: buy one ticket for a boat ride and get another free. "I had told them not to get into that boat, but they had already been convinced," he mourns. That had been their last conversation.

Searching for survivors

The task of the search team was cut out that night. The rescuers had no idea how many people had got into the boat, which had a capacity of about 25. There was neither a passenger chart nor a proper ticketing system. Safety had clearly been thrown to the winds from the start.

The people of the area accuse Nasar P. Tanur, the boat operator, of converting an ordinary fishing boat with a round-bottomed hull into a passenger vessel fitted with an upper deck, at a yard in Ponnani, by influencing the authorities. K.T. Chacko, chairman of the Kerala Shipping and Inland Navigation Corporation, says boats with fishing hulls should not be used for ferrying tourists. "Fishing and passenger boats operate differently on water. Using fishing boats to carry passengers is risky," he says.

Soon after the tragedy, Nasar went missing. He was arrested later. So were the boat crew who swam to safety after the accident.

Atlantic also did not have permission to operate beyond 6 p.m., say the police. Yet, it set out on its last trip from a makeshift jetty at Thooval Theeram around 6.45 p.m. Pratheesh, who was sitting on the beach when the boat capsized, and whose video of the boat's last journey went viral on social media, told *The Hindu*, "Even when the boat started from the jetty, it was tilting towards one side. We were scared. We just watched its movement. It capsized while taking a sharp turn in the middle of the river."

> Even when the boat started from the jetty, it was tilting towards one side. We were scared. We just watched its movement. It capsized while taking a sharp turn in the middle of the river.
>
> **PRATHEESH**
> Resident

The boat sank about 300 metres off Thooval Theeram, some 15 minutes after leaving the jetty. "Most passengers were flung to one side when it turned. Soon, we were all in the water. I hit my head against something, but I thankfully managed to escape with my little daughter," says Rajisha, one of the survivors. Rajisha's child and husband survived as they were wearing life jackets. She says only five passengers, of which four were children, had worn life jackets on that ill-fated journey.

The efforts of the rescuers were hampered by the darkness, the deep water, and the muddy bottom of the river. Ambika, who saw the boat sinking, says the lack of lights also hampered the rescue in the initial phase. "We could hear music blaring from the boat. Suddenly I heard loud cries, and the boat's lights started to dim. We shouted for help. Many local people jumped into the river and started swimming towards the boat," she recalls.

The victims were trapped inside the glass-panelled lower deck of the boat. Some of the rescuers broke the glass panes with their hands to pull out the victims trapped inside, says Cheruvath. "Many of them didn't realise they were bleeding from the wounds caused by broken glass and oyster shells," he says.

The aftermath of the tragedy

Soon, the State machinery sprang into action. The Minister of Tourism, P.A. Mohammed Riyas, and the Minister of Sports, V. Abdurahiman, commanded the search and rescue operations. As news of the tragedy spread, people flocked to hospitals at Tanur, Tirur, Tirurangadi, and Kottakkal – all towns in Malappuram district – in search of their relatives and friends. Roads were cleared for ambulances.

The State was put on high alert. Doctors were called in from the neighbouring districts of Kozhikode and Thrissur to handle the emergency. The death toll rose to 22 by 11.30 p.m., when the boat was hauled out of the river. As doubts lingered about the total number of passengers in the vessel, teams of the Navy and the National Disaster Response Force came the next morning to conduct another search. A few hours later, the search was called off and the government declared that there were no more victims. As per government figures, there were 37 passengers in the boat of which 22 died, 10 were rescued with injuries, and five swam to safety.

The postmortem of the victims was conducted by 9 a.m. on May 8. The 11 victims of Saidalavi's family were buried in a row at Puthankadappuram. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan led a line of Ministers to pay homage to the victims and announced that a compensation of ₹10 lakh would be given to the kin of each victim. The Union government offered ₹2 lakh, too. Health Minister Veena George assured mental health support to the survivors and the family members of the victims. The State Human Rights Commission filed a case and sought a report within 10 days from the District Collector and the District Police Chief. The Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights also demanded a report.

The boat after it was hauled out of the river. SAKEER HUSSAIN

By this time, the people's grief had given way to anger. There are allegations that those in power had been complicit in the flouting of safety norms. Unconfirmed reports said officials had overlooked complaints of irregularities against Nasar. "There was a lapse on the part of the police. The municipal authorities too ignored the matter. This tragedy could have been averted," says K. Raju, a former police superintendent from Tanur.

Anger soon grew into rage: people burnt the makeshift boat jetty, one of the many that have come up in the region lately, and protested outside a court at Parappanangadi when Nasar was brought there. They said the tragedy was a result of his greed and callousness.

> I had taught my children how to swim, but they got stuck under the boat [and died]. And I have lost everything I had.
>
> **KUNNUMMAL SAIDALAVI**
> Fisherman

The government also announced an inquiry by a judicial commission led by retired judge V.K. Mohanan. But this has not helped calm the agitated people of Tanur.

A history of warnings

Kerala has seen many boat tragedies. In 2002, in Kumarakom, a lush town known for backwater tourism, 29 people, including a nine-month-old baby, were killed in a ferry accident. In the Thattekkad tragedy of 2007, 18 people who were on a school excursion lost their lives. In 2009, a double-decker passenger boat sank in Thekkady killing 45 people, mostly tourists.

Judicial commissions were set up to investigate these accidents. The commissions, led by M.M. Pareethu Pillai (Thattekkad), and E. Moideen Kunhu (Thekkady) and K. Narayana Kurup (Kumarakom), gave several recommendations to improve safety, but these remain on paper. Some of their suggestions include setting up a safety commissioner for inland water transport, insurance for all passenger boats, compulsory use of life jackets, and stringent action against officials responsible for a tragedy.

Most people believe that Tanur was a tragedy foretold. A few weeks before the disaster, Muralee Thummarukudy, an expert in disaster management and an operations manager at the Crisis Management Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme, had warned of an imminent houseboat tragedy in the State. Thummarukudy had said that the State needs a water safety policy, not just one on boat safety. "We can reduce accident deaths in Kerala by two-thirds by sensibly applying the technical know-how and the systems currently available in the world," he had said. He had urged people to be more conscious of safety. Thummarukudy had also highlighted the absence of proper briefings in houseboats, the lack of trained drivers, and the consequences of boats not having licences.

Boat accidents in Kerala have claimed about 200 lives in the last two decades. The State has a vast network of inland waterways with tremendous tourism potential, but it has been evident time and again that there have been compromises on safety. As per official data, 3,213 inland vessels are in operation in the State's waterways, but industry insiders say there are an estimated 4,000 vessels, including unlicensed ones. There is no fool-proof mechanism to detect illegal inland vessels. The Kerala Inland Vessels Rules of 2010 and the Kerala Maritime Board Act of 2017 have been poorly enforced. The Kerala Maritime Board is the nodal agency to ensure fitness, licensing, and safe operation of all tourist vessels in the State, including houseboats. But it does not have an uniformed enforcement wing. Recommendations to form special police units under a deputy superintendent of police remain on paper. The police, too, do not have a mechanism to keep a tab on vessels flouting norms.

Naval architects have repeatedly asked all boat operators to prominently display the carrying capacity and registration on the vessel, but these pleas have fallen on deaf ears. Naval architect Paulson Joseph, a member of the Kerala Maritime Board-approved consultants panel, says accidents are preventable if boat builders and operators adhere to approved designs and safety norms. "If they don't, insurance firms can reject compensation claims in case of accidents. More catamaran ferries must be introduced, since single-hull vessels that have inadequate width are a safety hazard," he says.

A "free-for-all situation" prevails in many remote areas where tourist boats operate, says Professor K. Sivaprasad, Department of Ship Technology, Cochin University of Science and Technology. "This can be prevented if local bodies have a stake in regulating boat operations. There must be curbs on having an upper deck. The government must appoint an adequate number of naval architects so that enforcement is foolproof. It must also publish a list of authorised vessels online so that travellers can verify the safety status of the boats they board," he says.

In the wake of the Tanur tragedy, the All Kerala Houseboat Owners' Federation has repeated its demand that the Kerala Maritime Board and the State tourism department take urgent steps to hold erring *kettuvallam* (houseboat) operators accountable. "Houseboats are a huge draw in Alappuzha and Kumarakom. The tourism department has a scheme of classifying houseboats to assess their safety and service standards and to provide government aid accordingly. Only a small percentage of houseboat operators have chosen to subscribe to this despite regular accidents," says an industry insider.

While ferries and tourist boats operated by government agencies largely adhere to safety norms, such as keeping an adequate number of life jackets, lifebuoys, and buoyant apparatus, private operators are under no compulsion to follow suit. Further, as Thummarukudy pointed out, there are hardly any safety briefings for the passengers on board.

The people of Tanur say they raised a hue and cry when *Atlantic* began carrying tourists along the Poorappuzha a few weeks ago. Following complaints, the police stopped the service for a day, but allowed services to resume the next day.

Saidalavi says his children were good students and had dreamed of building him a proper house. "I had taught them how to swim, but they got stuck under the boat. And I have lost everything I had," he mourns.

From Page One

Inflation slows to an 18-month low of 4.7%

Edible oils and fats' prices witnessed deflation for the third successive month, falling a sharp 12.33% from April 2022, when the immediate aftermath of the Russia-Ukraine conflict had led to a global supply shock.

"The 4.7% inflation print in April not only benefited from the high base but also the cooler than normal temperatures last month, which delayed the seasonal rise in prices of perishable items and helped keep prices of some vegetables under check," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA.

Milk and milk products' inflation eased only marginally from 9.3% in March to 8.85% in April, as was the case for cereals (down from 15.3% in March to 13.7% in April), and spices that cooled slightly from 18.2% to 17.4% in April.

"The sequential price momentum in items like milk and pulses remains a concern," said CARE Ratings chief economist Rajani Sinha, who expects retail inflation to remain below 5% till June and average 5.1% for 2023-24. "Weather-related disruptions could be the main threat to food inflation and the overall CPI inflation," she reckoned.

Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis said price pressures were visible in pulses as well, whose inflation rose to 5.3% in April from 4.3% in March.

"As traders wait for the new crop in October, there will be pressure on prices and inflation will be on the higher side till then. The monsoon prospects are critical here as pulses are vulnerable given limited access to irrigation," he noted.

There was a consensus among economists that the central bank would continue its pause on interest rate hikes, emboldened by the moderation in headline inflation, but rate cuts remain unlikely amid worries about the monsoon and the kharif crop.

SC questions Bengal ban on *The Kerala Story*

The film has come under fire from critics who accuse its makers of demonising the entire Muslim community with a "malicious propaganda" claim that young women in Kerala were lured through so-called 'love *jihad*' and trafficked to West Asia to join the IS.

"The film is running in different parts of the country which have a similar demographic profile as West Bengal. Why should you [West Bengal government] not allow a film to run? This has nothing to do with the artistic value of the film... It may be good art or it may be bad art, but that is irrelevant. If the public don't find the film worth, they will not watch it," Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said, addressing the West Bengal government.

The film-makers said theatres in Tamil Nadu had withdrawn from showing the film, scared of violence. "We would like to know from you what steps you have taken... State governments cannot look the other way when people attack theatres and burn chairs," Chief Justice Chandrachud told Tamil Nadu Additional Advocate General Amit Anand Tiwari. Mr. Tiwari said the accusations against the State were unfounded as there was no official ban on the film. Issuing notice to both West Bengal and Tamil Nadu and directing them to file their separate responses, the Bench listed the case for hearing on May 17.

SC may give 3 months to SEBI to finish probe

But the Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud clearly indicated its disagreement with the SEBI's plea for a six-month extension. "There should be some alacrity on your part... We are thinking of giving you another three months. We cannot agree with you when you say a 'minimum' of six months... put a team together," CJI Chandrachud told Mr. Mehta.

The Solicitor-General said SEBI was "compressing" the time required to six months. He hinted that the investigation may extend overseas. "We will need a minimum of six months to reach any conclusion, considering the inquiry may go out," Mr. Mehta submitted.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, for the petitioners, said SEBI had been investigating since 2017, for the past six years. However, Mr. Mehta countered that Mr. Bhushan was referring to an unconnected issue. Mr. Bhushan said the market regulator ought to at least come clean and disclose to the Supreme Court "what they have done so far". But the Bench, also comprising Justices P.S. Narasimha and J.B. Pardiwala, said such a disclosure may not be proper at this stage. "But we agree with you that they cannot go on indefinitely," Chief Justice Chandrachud said. "We will go through Justice Sapre's report and come back on Monday. We will pronounce further orders on Monday in this case," the Chief Justice said.

On March 2, the top court formed the expert committee headed by Justice Sapre to investigate the causal factors and existence, if any, of regulatory failure which led to investors losing crores due to the volatility in the securities market following Hindenburg Research's report accusing the Adani Group of "brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud schemes over the course of decades".

SEBI and other agencies were directed by the court to cooperate with the committee and provide it with all "material and requisite information".

SC tells courts not to rely on April 26 order on default bail

Top court says default bail pleas can be decided independent of the *Ritu Chhabaria* judgment, which upheld it as a fundamental right of accused persons; Centre yet to file review petition

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

> Interim order on May 1 shall not preclude any court from considering a plea for grant of default bail independent of and without relying on the judgment of April 26
> **SUPREME COURT**

The Supreme Court, in a rather unusual order on Friday, directed lower courts to decide pending default bail applications without relying on its own judgment of April 26.

A judgment of the Supreme Court is considered the law of the land. Article 141 of the Constitution provides that the law declared by the Supreme Court shall be binding on all courts within India.

The April 26 judgment in *Ritu Chhabaria versus Union of India* held that the Central agencies cannot deny accused persons their right to default bail by filing multiple supplementary chargesheets and seeking renewed custody.

The judgment held that "the right of default bail under Section 167(2) of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) is not merely a statutory right, but a fundamental right that flows from Article 21 of the Constitution" to protect accused persons from the "unfettered and arbitrary power of the State".

According to Section 167 (2) of the CrPC, an accused is entitled to default bail if the investigating agency fails to file a final chargesheet within 60 days from the date of remand. For certain categories of offences, the stipulated period can be extended to 90 days.

The April judgment, delivered by a Division Bench led by Justice Krishna Murari, came in a petition by Ritu Chhabaria, whose husband, Sanjay, was named in a corruption case. The CBI, which arrested him in April 2022, got his custody renewed from time to time by filing multiple supplementary chargesheets. He was never released on default bail.

Recall of order sought

Following the judgment, the government, through the Enforcement Directorate (ED), moved an urgent application in the top court to "recall" the *Ritu Chhabaria* judgment. The ED argued that the judgment contradicted the Supreme Court's own past verdicts. The Central agency backed the recall application by separately filing an appeal against the default bail granted by the Delhi High Court to Manpreet Singh Talwar, an accused in a money laundering case who relied on the *Ritu Chhabaria* verdict. The ED argued that the April 26 judgment would not apply to special laws like the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

On May 1, a Division Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud directed courts to "defer" any decision on default bail pleas filed on the strength of the *Ritu Chhabaria* judgment. On May 4, the court extended its interim order to May 12.

When the case came up on Friday, senior advocate Siddharth Luthra informed a three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice Chandrachud that the May 1 order was "curtailing the rights" of undertrial prisoners seeking default bail.

Chief Justice Chandrachud clarified that the May 1 order had not prevented courts from deciding default bail pleas "independent of the *Ritu Chhabaria* judgment".

"We clarify that the interim order of this court on May 1, 2023 shall not preclude any trial court/High Court from considering an application for grant of default bail under Section 167 (2) CrPC independent of and without relying on the judgment of April 26, 2023 [*Ritu Chhabaria* case]," the top court said.

The government is yet to file a review petition against the April 26 judgment.

A recent statement issued by lawyers' NGO, Campaign for Judicial Accountability and Reform (CJAR), led by advocate Prashant Bhushan, had asked why the government chose to file a recall application instead of a review petition against the judgment. It urged the Chief Justice's Bench to *suo motu* withdraw its May 1 and May 4 orders.

Monitoring Pilot's yatra, says Congress Rajasthan in-charge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

Congress leader Sachin Pilot during his yatra in Kishangarh on Friday. PTI

The *Jan Sangharsh Yatra* being undertaken by senior leader Sachin Pilot was a "personal" one and the party was "keeping an eye on" it, All India Congress Committee's (AICC) Rajasthan in-charge Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa said on Friday.

"It is his personal *yatra*, he is taking out the yatra on his own. We are keeping an eye on that and when [Congress president Mallikarjun] Khar*gei* comes back from Karnataka, all issues will be discussed," he said.

Mr. Randhawa made these remarks after a review meeting with State unit chief Govind Singh Dotasra, co-in-charges Qazi Muhammad Nizamuddin, Amrita Dhawan and Virendra Rathore, and others.

Apart from Mr. Pilot's march, organisational issues and preparations for the Assembly election in Rajasthan later this year were also discussed.

Restructure RPSC: Pilot

On the second day of his yatra, Mr. Pilot on Friday called for the restructuring of the Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC) following the arrest of one of its members in a paper leak case. He has been raising the issues of corruption and paper leaks in government recruitment examinations as part of his five-day yatra from Ajmer to Jaipur.

Thousands of supporters welcomed Mr. Pilot at Kishangarh in Ajmer district.

Mr. Pilot said conjectures about him leaving the Congress were unwarranted. "Whatever I say, I do it in front of everyone. I don't talk with double meaning... My demand is collective, not individual, and I am fighting for the youth like never before."

The Tonk MLA said his 125-km-long yatra was not directed at any person, but was meant to raise "certain issues" which were in the interest of the Congress as a ruling party in the State.

HC orders scientific survey of '*Shivling*'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Allahabad High Court on Friday allowed a revision petition demanding a scientific survey to determine the age of a purported *Shivling* found inside the Gyanvyapi mosque in Varanasi.

The survey will be done by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) which, in its affidavit, maintained that it cannot do carbon dating of the structure due to technical reasons but offered to do carbon dating of the embedded portions of the *Shivling* and also use the ground-penetrating radar method.

The case pertains to a revision plea moved by Lakshmi Devi and three others who challenged a Varanasi court order rejecting their plea for conducting a scientific survey of the *Shivling* to determine its age.

SC verdict provides 'constitutional cloak' to Shinde govt.: BJP MP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

BJP MP and senior lawyer Mahesh Jethmalani on Friday said the Supreme Court verdict in the Maharashtra political row provided a "constitutional cloak" to the Eknath Shinde-led BJP-Shiv Sena government in the State and added that the claim of a moral victory by the Congress and its allies amounted to "clutching at straws from defeat".

Mr. Jethmalani, interacting with reporters here, said the Supreme Court, in its judgment on Thursday, rejected five of the seven prayers made by the petitioners and granted only two.

The court disapproved then Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's decision to call a floor test for then Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray to prove his majority after many Shiv Sena MLAs defected to the Eknath Shinde faction. Mr. Jethmalani said it was a "sham, hollow and irrelevant victory" for the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), the coalition of the Congress, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Uddhav faction of Shiv Sena, as it had no "practical" effect as the judges, in their unanimous verdict, also upheld the swearing-in of Mr. Shinde.

He said the court only asked Assembly Speaker Rahul Narvekar to revisit the matter of recognising Bharat Gogawale as the chief whip of the Shiv Sena while setting aside the earlier decision as against the law. "Mr. Gogawale can be appointed to the position again," he said. The Speaker would decide on the matter, including the issue of disqualifying MLAs who rebelled and backed Mr. Shinde, on merit, the Rajya Sabha MP said.

Will move SC if Speaker fails to decide on disqualification of MLAs soon, says Uddhav

The Hindu Bureau
PUNE

Uddhav Thackeray

Former Maharastra Chief Minister and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray on Friday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to "tell his people" to resign and challenged the ruling dispensation to face elections. Mr. Thackeray was referring to the Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis government in the State.

The comments came a day after the Supreme Court rapped then Governor B.S. Koshyari's actions of calling for a trust vote which led to the fall of the Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in the State.

Speaking in Shirdi, Mr. Thackeray said Speaker Rahul Narwekar should take a decision soon on the disqualification of 16 MLAs of the Eknath Shinde camp based on the framework laid down by the SC verdict, failing which his party would be compelled to move the court again on the matter. "After that, this [Shinde-Fadnavis] government will not be able to save face," he said.

Mr. Thackeray said he was satisfied with his decision to resign on "moral grounds" prior to the floor test in June last year.

"The reason I quit before the floor test is that I did not wish deceivers [alluding to the rebel Sena faction] to pass a no-confidence motion against me. As per the judgement, I might have become CM today, but I have no interest in occupying the top post in this manner," he said.

Challenging the Shinde-Fadnavis dispensation to face elections, he said: "In a democracy, the final court of appeal is that of the people. Let us face elections and leave the decision to them on which faction is legal or not."

Responding to Mr. Thackeray, Mr. Fadnavis, speaking in Nagpur, said if anyone tried to pressurise the Speaker in any manner, then it would not be compatible with the country's free and fair legal process.

Read our explainer
What is the SC ruling on Sena versus Sena?
bit.ly/senaruling

Welfare without discrimination is true secularism, says Modi

The Hindu Bureau
GANDHINAGAR

Modi inaugurated or laid foundation stones for projects worth ₹4,400 crore

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said his government did not look at the religion or caste of beneficiaries while reaching out to them with schemes and welfare programmes and there was no greater social justice than working for the happiness and convenience of the masses.

Mr. Modi was in Gujarat to inaugurate and lay the foundation stones for projects worth around ₹4,400 crore.

He allotted houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), which, he said, had become a tool for women's empowerment as 70% of the four crore houses built for the poor had been given to women. "We are trying for 100% saturation of welfare schemes. That is, the government itself is going to the beneficiaries of the schemes. This approach of the government has ended corruption on a large scale," he said.

"The government does not look at religion or caste while delivering benefits and that is real secularism," he said after inaugurating, laying the foundation stones and participating in the *grih pravesh* (house inauguration) of 42,441 dwelling units constructed in Gujarat under the PMAY.

PM lauds NEP

Speaking at another event, Mr. Modi said the New Education Policy (NEP) would change the way education was imparted in the country. He said with the introduction of the NEP, "bookish knowledge" would give way to creative and innovative ways of learning and teaching.

"Today, India is focused on providing new opportunities to students as per the needs of the 21st century; the new NEP has been made keeping them in mind," Mr. Modi added.

Air India fined ₹30 lakh; pilot suspended for three months

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The DGCA on Friday imposed a fine of ₹30 lakh on Air India and suspended a pilot-in-command for three months after he entertained a woman friend in the cockpit and demanded that she be served alcohol and snacks.

The co-pilot has been warned for not being assertive in preventing the violation. The passenger, who was an airline staffer, will face administrative action, with the DGCA demanding that she be removed from any managerial functions in the organisation for a specified period of time.

SC to list next week plea by Delhi govt. on transfer of Services Secretary

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to list next week a plea by the Delhi government alleging that the Centre was not implementing the transfer of its Services Secretary.

Appearing before Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, senior advocate A.M. Singhvi made an urgent mentioning that the delay even amounted to contempt of the Constitution Bench judgment of May 11.

On Thursday, a Constitution Bench led by the Chief Justice declared that the Delhi government had both legislative and executive powers over the 'services' except those related to public order, police and land in the national capital.

'Won't transfer'

"They are saying we will not transfer anybody. I can file contempt in view of the judgment passed yesterday. But it will take time. So kindly list the matter," Mr. Singhvi submitted.

Ashish More, Secretary of the Delhi government's Services Department, was removed from his post on Thursday, hours after the Supreme Court gave the AAP dispensation control over the transfer and posting of civil service officers.

Ten Kuki legislators from Manipur demand 'separate administration'

The MLAs say the State government tacitly supported the 'unabated violence' by the majority community and miserably failed to protect the tribals; Congress blames two Meitei Hindu outfits for arson and the looting of police weapons

Vijaita Singh
Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

As many as 10 legislators from the hill districts of Manipur, which includes those from the ruling BJP, have demanded a separate administration as the "State miserably failed to protect" them when the violence started on May 3.

In a press statement, the 10 MLAs said the Government of Manipur tacitly supported the "unabated violence" by the majority Meitei community against the Chin-Kuki-Mizo-Zomi hill tribals, which has already partitioned the State and effected a total separation from the State of Manipur.

Stating that to live among the majority Meitiei community was "as good as death for our people", the MLAs said, "Our people can no longer exist under Manipur as the hatred against our tribal community has reached such a height that MLAs, Ministers, pastors, police and civil officers, laymen, women and even children were not spared."

After-effect: People had to take refuge in temporary shelters after the recent violence in Manipur. AFP

"As the State of Manipur has miserably failed to protect us, we seek of the Union of India a separate administration under the Constitution of India," the statement said.

Dinganglung Gangmei, BJP MLA and Chairperson of the Hill Areas Committee, distanced himself and other Naga MLAs from this demand. "This is a communal demand. We were completely kept in the dark," Mr. Gangmei said.

The HAC comprises of 20 MLAs of the hill areas in the State – all belonging to Scheduled Tribes. Half of these MLAs are from Kuki communities whereas the other half are from Naga communities.

Significantly, along with Kuki communities, Naga tribes have also been opposing the demand to grant Scheduled Tribe status to the Meiteis.

The Congress meanwhile alleged that Arambai Tenggol, an outfit raised on the lines of Bajrang Dal in Manipur, is behind the arson of churches and looting of weapons from police camps.

Congress party's Manipur in-charge, Bhakta Charan Das, told *The Hindu* that outfits such as Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun, which had the blessings of CM N. Biren Singh, destroyed churches belonging to the Meiteis too.

However, Kuldiep Singh, Security Adviser, Manipur government, said no specific group could be blamed. "Till now, we have not found any evidence that weapons were looted by a particular group. Many weapons were robbed as a large crowd had gheraoed the police camps," Mr. Singh told *The Hindu*.

Arambai Tenggol and the Meitei Leepun have been around for about two-three years but gained popularity in the past one year, according to many residents.

Explained | What is behind Manipur unrest?
bit.ly/manipurrow

Centre prepares new Model Prisons Act with focus on reform

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs has prepared the 'Model Prisons Act 2023,' that will replace a British-era law to overhaul the prison administration, which will focus on the reformation and rehabilitation of inmates, it said on Friday.

Among the salient features of the Act are provisions of punishment for prisoners and jail staff for use of prohibited items such as mobile phones in jails, establishment and management of high security jails, open jail, and provisions for protecting the society from the criminal activities of hardened criminals and habitual offenders. It also contains provisions for providing legal aid to prisoners, parole, furlough and premature release to incentivise good conduct.

The MHA says the Act will serve as a guiding document for States.

130-year-old Act

Prisons in the country and 'persons detained therein' are a State subject and the existing law in this context, the Prisons Act of 1894 is a pre-independence era Act and is almost 130-years-old, it said. Two other related laws – The Prisoners Act, 1900 and The Transfer of Prisoners Act, 1950 are also decades-old. The Model Prisons Act, the Ministry said, might serve as a "guiding document" for the States, and for adoption in their jurisdiction.

The MHA said it found that there were "several lacunae" in the existing Prisons Act and there was "conspicuous omission" of the correctional focus in the existing Act.

The Ministry, hence, directed the Bureau of Police Research and Development, a Union government think tank on policing subjects, to review the laws and prepare a new draft.

"The [existing] Act mainly focuses on keeping the criminals in custody and enforcement of discipline and order in prisons. There is no provision for reform and rehabilitation of prisoners in the existing Act," it said. It said a comprehensive 'Model Prisons Act, 2023' was finalised with the objective of holistically providing guidance and addressing the gaps in the existing Prisons Act.

"The BPR&D after holding wide-ranging discussions with State prison authorities, correctional experts etc. prepared a draft," the Ministry said.

CBI books ex-NCB official Wankhede on graft charge in cruise case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday searched 29 locations and registered a case in connection with the graft charge against former Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) official Sameer Wankhede and four others. The matter pertains to the 2021 cruise ship case in which actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan was arrested and later given a clean chit.

As alleged, the officials had planned to extort about ₹25 crore from the family members of those shown as accused in the cruise case, by threatening to invoke the charges related to possession of drugs. "A token amount of ₹50 lakh as bribe was allegedly obtained in furtherance of this conspiracy by the said persons," the CBI said.

"The case has been registered on a complaint from the NCB. Among those named as accused are Mr. Wankhede; superintendent Vishwa Vijay Singh, intelligence officer Ashish Ranjan, one K.P. Gosavi and Sanvile D'Souza," said an agency official.

On October 2, 2021, an NCB team raided the ship and then arrested 20 persons, including Mr. Aryan. He spent 22 days in judicial custody before he was released on bail by the Bombay High Court.

Spruced up: The revamped pedestrian-only Polo View Market in Srinagar. NISSAR AHMAD

Ahead of G-20 meet, Srinagar gets its first pedestrian market

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Srinagar's Polo View market, once frequented by Dogra monarchs and Bollywood actors, on Friday earned the distinction of becoming the first modern pedestrian-only market in Kashmir. It comes 10 days ahead of the G-20 meet being held in Srinagar, which will be attended by multiple foreign delegates.

Hallmark chinar trees line the central verge of the market, with foliage providing a canopy on both sides. The market is home to brands with a rich local history, some dating back to more than a century ago. "My ancestors had set up a brand and a shop here in 1901. English viceroys, their staff and the Dogra Maharajas would frequent the market," recalls Haji Ismail Bhat, 75, president of the Polo View Market Association.

The market has become iconic for preserving elements of local architecture. The ornamental representation of the colonial-era, the Dhajji Dewari, has become the facade of the shops in line with the architectural sensibilities of the area, which housed British residences prior to 1947. The path has been laid with cobblestone work, again a hallmark of local architecture.

Describing Polo View as the State's first high street completely meant for pedestrians, Srinagar Smart City's CEO Athar Amir Khan said that the market is also the first to be completely wire-free. It is part of the ₹980 crore Smart City project being implemented in the summer capital.

"Polo View, in the heart of Srinagar, will now attract more footfall, increase retail sales, and improve the experience for visitors," Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha said after inaugurating the market. Shopkeepers were also upbeat about the double-row market. They expect more footfall as high-end tourists from Europe return to Srinagar.

No democracy in West Bengal under Mamata Banerjee: Nadda

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

He said she had banned *The Kerala Story* despite the fact that the film had "nothing to do with any religion or State"

BJP national president J.P. Nadda on Friday targeted West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for banning the film *The Kerala Story*, alleging that there was no democracy under her rule in West Bengal.

He was speaking at an event to launch a book, titled *Democracy in Coma: Silenced Voices of Women Victims in Bengal*, authored by Sonali Chitrakar, Vijeta Singh Aggarwal, Shruti Maitra and Monika Agarwal Uniyal. Mr. Nadda said that Ms. Banerjee had banned *The Kerala Story* despite the fact that the film had "nothing to do with any religion or State".

"But Ms. Banerjee, one of the champions of democracy, has banned it in West Bengal. There is nothing left in the name of democracy in West Bengal. It is indeed a democracy in coma in the State," Mr. Nadda said. Directed by Sudipto Sen, *The Kerala Story* shows how some women from Kerala were forced to convert to Islam and recruited by the terror group Islamic State (IS). The film, released on May 5, has kicked up a political storm, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi endorsing it, while Opposition parties have accused the makers of spewing hate.

The book launched on Friday is about post-Assembly election violence in West Bengal. "These are not stories, but factual incidents have been quoted in the book," Mr. Nadda said, adding that he himself was also a victim of this political violence. "I was also a victim.. The first attack was carried out on me when I had gone to Diamond Harbour," he said.

Mr. Nadda said that there was a need to bring change in Bengal, which was possible with the strength of the people.

IISER BERHAMPUR
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Established by the Ministry of Education, Government of India

Advt. No. NT- 01/2023 Date: May 10, 2023

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Closing date of submission of online application: **1730 hr of June 30, 2023**
Crucial date for calculation of age / qualification / experience: **June 30, 2023**

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4	Junior Superintendent	B	06	Direct Recruitment	00	00	00	01	00	00	01
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Hard copy of the application will not be accepted.

Director, IITM, Pune

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Ministry of Jal Shakti
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(Subrata K. Basu)
Deputy Secretary

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अधिकतम आयु सीमा **(दिनांक 30.05.2023 तक)** 35 वर्ष है। भारत सरकार के नियमानुसार, अ.पि.व., अ.जा., बेंचमार्क दिव्यांगता वाले व्यक्ति (पि डब्ल्यू बी डी), भूतपूर्व सैनिक तथा अन्य श्रेणी के अभ्यर्थी अधिकतम आयु सीमा में छूट प्राप्त करने के पात्र हैं। आवेदन **केवल ऑनलाइन माध्यम से** ही स्वीकार किए जाएंगे। इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी विस्तृत जानकारी एवं ऑनलाइन आवेदन प्रपत्र भरने हेतु वेबसाइट **www.lpsc.gov.in** पर जाएँ। इस उद्देश्य हेतु, ऑनलाइन भर्ती पोर्टल दिनांक **16.05.2023 को 1400 बजे** से दिनांक **30.05.2023 को 1400 बजे** तक उपलब्ध रहेगा।

Maximum Age limit **(as on 30.05.2023)** is 35 years. Relaxation in maximum age limit is applicable for OBC, SC, PWBD, Ex-servicemen and other categories as per Govt. of India orders. Applications will be received **ONLY THROUGH ONLINE**. Interested candidates may visit the website **www.lpsc.gov.in** for detailed information and filling-up of online application form. For this purpose, the online recruitment portal will be available from **1400 hrs on 16.05.2023** to **1400 hrs. on 30.05.2023**.

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बालानगर, हैदराबाद **BALANAGAR, HYDERABAD 500 037**
इसरो isro

एनआरएससी, विज्ञापन संख्या एनआरएससी-आरएमटी-2-2023 दिनांक 13.05.2023 द्वारा निम्नलिखित श्रेणियों में एक वर्ष के प्रशिक्षण के लिए शिक्षुता हेतु आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है

NRSC invites applications for Apprenticeship for one year training in the following categories vide Advt.No.NRSC-RMT-2-2023 dated 13.05.2023:

क्र.सं. Sl. No.	अध्ययन का विषय Discipline	पदों की संख्या No. of Positions
	स्नातक शिक्षु / GRADUATE APPRENTICE	
1.	इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स एवं संचार इंजीनियरिंग/ Electronics & Communication Engineering	05
2.	कंप्यूटर विज्ञान इंजीनियरिंग/ Computer Science Engineering	05
3.	इलेक्ट्रिकल एवं इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स इंजीनियरिंग/ Electrical and Electronics Engineering	03
4.	सिविल इंजीनियरिंग / Civil Engineering	01
5.	मैकेनिकल इंजीनियरिंग / Mechanical Engineering	01
6.	पुस्तकालय विज्ञान / Library Science	02
	तकनीशियनशिक्षु / TECHNICIAN APPRENTICE	
1.	इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स एवं संचार इंजीनियरिंग/ Electronics & Communication Engineering	10
2.	कंप्यूटर विज्ञान इंजीनियरिंग/ Computer Science Engineering	10
3.	इलेक्ट्रिकल एवं इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स इंजीनियरिंग/ Electrical and Electronics Engineering	06
4.	सिविल इंजीनियरिंग / Civil Engineering	02
5.	मैकेनिकल इंजीनियरिंग / Mechanical Engineering	02
	कमर्शियल एवं कंप्यूटर प्रैक्टिस में डिप्लोमा / DIPLOMA IN COMMERCIAL AND COMPUTER PRACTICE	
1.	डिप्लोमा इन कमर्शियल एवं कंप्यूटर प्रैक्टिस / Diploma In Commercial And Computer Practice	23

विस्तृत विज्ञापन और ऑनलाइन आवेदन के लिए कृपया https://web.umang.gov.in/landing/ देखें
/ For detailed advertisement and to apply Online please visit https://web.umang.gov.in/landing/

याद रखने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण तिथियां /Important Date(s) to Remember:

ऑनलाइन पंजीकरण की प्रारंभिक तिथि Opening Date for On-line Registration:	13.05.2023
ऑनलाइन पंजीकरण की अंतिम तिथि Closing Date for On-line Registration:	02.06.2023

"सरकार ऐसे कार्यबल की तलाश में है जिसमें लिंग संतुलन हो तथा महिला उम्मीदवारों को आवेदन करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जाता है"
"Government strives to have a workforce which reflects gender balance and women candidates are encouraged to apply".

INBRIEF

Kharif: area under paddy coverage dips by 1.91 lakh ha

As sowing of paddy picked up in States other than Punjab and Haryana, the Union Agriculture Ministry's data showed a decrease of 1.91 lakh hectares compared to the area of coverage last year during the same period. The Agriculture Ministry said the sowing of paddy was in about 27.89 lakh hectares. Last year, it was 29.80 lakh hectares during the same period. There is a marginal increase of 0.43 lakh hectares in the cultivation of millets in this kharif (summer) season. In the case of pulses, the sowing was in about 19.61 lakh hectares and Madhya Pradesh led the chart by sowing pulses in 9.64 lakh hectares. Last year, it was 18.44 lakh hectares.

Senior Chhattisgarh official held in liquor scam case

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday arrested Arun Pati Tripathi, Special Secretary at the Department of Excise and the managing director (MD) of Chhattisgarh State Marketing Corporation Limited (CSMCL), in connection with the alleged ₹2,000-crore liquor scam in the State. Mr. Tripathi, an Indian Telecommuniation Service officer, was produced before a court in Raipur in the evening. While the agency had asked for a 10-day remand for Mr. Tripathi, the court ordered police detention of three days, i.e. up to May 15. He is the fourth person and the first government official arrested in connection with the alleged scam.

NIA chargesheets accused in Mundra drug seizure case

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday chargesheeted another accused in connection with the seizure of 3,000 kg of heroin at Gujarat's Mundra port in September 2021. This is the third supplementary chargesheet filed. So far, 42 individuals and seven firms have been arraigned. In the fresh chargesheet, the agency has named Pankaj from Amritsar, for allegedly being instrumental in smuggling heroin to India from Afghanistan. The seized consignment had been transported via Bandar Abbas port in Iran. According to the NIA, Pankaj had also facilitated the processing/extraction of heroin in the past and later sold the contraband in India.

Drugs worth ₹38.36 crore seized at Attari check-point

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized 5.48 kg of heroin, worth about ₹38.36 crore in the international market, at the Integrated Check Point in Amritsar's Attari. The drugs had been concealed in a consignment of 'Afghan' brooms being brought from Pakistan. Acting on a tip-off, the agency officials intercepted the consignment consisting 4,000 pieces of brooms kept in 40 bags. They found that heroin was stuffed in 442 hollow bamboo pieces in three bags. The cargo consignment had been imported by an Afghan national using fake identification papers, in connivance with his Indian wife. Both were arrested.

CBSE results: 87.33% students clear Class 12

93.12% students pass Class 10; while pass percentage has dipped for both Class 10 (1.28%) and 12 (5.38%), girls have outperformed boys at both levels; Thiruvananthapuram tops the list

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Friday declared Class 10 and Class 12 results for the 2022-23 session. While 93.12% students passed Class 10 exams, the pass percentage was 87.33 in Class 12.

The pass percentage for both Classes 10 and 12 in 2022-23 was lower than 2021-22. Compared to last year, it dipped by 5.38% and 1.28% for Class 12 (92.71%) and Class 10 (94.40%), respectively.

Good news: 94.25% of girls passed the Class 10 exam and 90.68% of girls passed the Class 12 exam. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

No merit list

Officials said the board has decided to do away with the practice of awarding first, second and third division to students based on their scores. "No merit list will be declared by the CBSE to avoid unhealthy competition among students. However, the board will issue merit certificates to 0.1% students who have scored the highest marks in various subjects," a senior official said.

In Class 10, 1,95,799 candidates (9.04%) scored above 90% and 44,297 (2.05%) scored above 95%. For Class 12, 1,12,838 (6.80%) students scored over 90% marks and 22,622 (1.36%) students scored above 95%.

Girls have performed better than boys in both Class 10 and 12. In Class 10, 94.25% of girls passed, while the pass percentage of boys stood at 92.27%. Among the transgender community, there is a 90% pass percentage. For Class 12, 90.68% of girls passed, while 84.67% boys cleared the exam. The pass percentage among transgender students is 60%.

Thiruvananthapuram (99.91%), Bengaluru (99.18%), Chennai (99.14%), Ajmer (97.27%) and Pune (96.92%) regions have the highest pass percentage in Class 10. In Class 12, Thiruvananthapuram topped the pass percentage with 99.91%; Prayagraj scored the lowest pass percentage at 78.05%.

Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNV), a system of Central schools for talented students from rural areas who lack access to accelerated learning due to financial disadvantage, have secured the highest pass percentage at 97.51% in Class 12.

The board has notified that it will conduct the next session – 2024 exams for both Classes 10 and 12 from February 15 onwards.

Cyclone Mocha to be severe, but little threat to India: IMD

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Its effects are likely to be focused in Myanmar and parts of Bangladesh, says the forecast

Cyclone Mocha, currently located in eastern Bay of Bengal, is likely to be stronger than initially forecast but poses little threat to India, with all of its fury likely to be concentrated in Myanmar and parts of Bangladesh, suggests the latest forecast from the India Meteorological Department.

Mocha – classified as a 'very severe cyclonic storm' – was centred over the central and adjoining southeast Bay of Bengal on Friday evening, and was moving northeastwards with a speed of 12 kmph.

"It is very likely to move north-northeastwards and intensify further into an Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm over East-central Bay of Bengal during the night of Friday," the IMD said in its evening bulletin

Forecasts regarding the strength of Mocha earlier this week had said it would at most be a 'very severe cyclonic storm'.

Significant rain

The IMD has a five-step classification for cyclones, with the weakest classified as a 'cyclonic storm' (with winds around 65 to 68 kmph) and the strongest a 'super cyclonic storm' (>222 kmph). An 'extremely severe cyclone' is just one grade below a 'super cyclonic storm'.

By the time the storm reaches land – on Sunday as the current forecast suggests – it would be a 'very severe' cyclone.

Many parts of the Andaman and Nicobar islands will see strong rains and winds; many parts of Tripura, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur and south Assam are likely to receive significant rain.

For a video on how cyclones are named, go to **bit.ly/cyclonename**

HC sets aside recruitment of 36,000 teachers

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

In a major setback to the West Bengal government, the Calcutta High Court on Friday set aside the recruitment of about 36,000 primary teachers on the grounds that there were irregularities in their hiring process.

Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay said that the teachers would continue to work in the government's schools for the next four months, but would only draw their salaries as para-teachers, not full-time teachers. The court directed the State government to start and complete the recruitment process within three months. Those whose jobs stand cancelled can also participate in the new recruitment process if they have already received teachers training, he said.

The cost of recruitment was to be paid by former chairperson of the West Bengal Board of Primary Education Manik Bhattacharya.

Lack of committees against sexual harassment is disquieting, says SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday, in a judgment, said there are "serious lapses" and "uncertainty" in the implementation of the Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment (PoSH) Act, leaving many working women no choice but to leave their jobs.

A Bench of Justices A.S. Bopanna and Hima Kohli, in a 62-page judgment, said the "sorry state of affairs" concerning the anti-sexual harassment at workplace law even after a decade of its introduction was "disquieting", and it was time for the Centre and States to take affirmative action.

"Being a victim of such a deplorable act not only dents the self-esteem of a woman, it also takes a toll on her emotional, mental and physical health. It is often seen that when women face sexual harassment at the workplace, they are reluctant to report such misconduct. Many of them even drop out from their job," Justice Kohli, who authored the judgment, observed.

> If the working environment continues to remain hostile, insensitive and unresponsive to the needs of women employees, then the Act will remain an empty formality
> **SUPREME COURT**

Working women were reluctant to report instances of sexual harassment either due to uncertainty about whom to approach or because of their lack of confidence in the process itself and its outcome, Justice Kohli noted.

"However salutary this enactment may be, it will never succeed in providing dignity and respect that women deserve at the workplace unless and until there is strict adherence to the enforcement regime and a proactive approach by all the State and non-State actors. If the working environment continues to remain hostile, insensitive and unresponsive to the needs of women employees, then the Act will remain an empty formality," Justice Kohli stressed.

The top court referred to a newspaper survey which revealed that out of 30 national sports federations in the country, only 16 had constituted Internal Complaints Committees mandated under the 2013 Act.

'Sorry state of affairs'

"This is indeed a sorry state of affairs and reflects poorly on all the State functionaries, public authorities, private undertakings, organisations and institutions that are duty bound to implement the PoSH Act in letter and spirit," Justice Kohli noted.

The court directed the Union, States and Union Territories to undertake a time bound exercise to verify whether Ministries, Departments, government organisations, authorities, public sector undertakings, institutions, bodies, etc. had constituted Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs), Local Committees(LCs) and Internal Committees(ICs) under the Act. These bodies have been ordered to publish the details of their respective committees in their websites. They were given eight weeks to comply and file affidavits in the topcourt.

The judgment came in an appeal filed against a March 15, 2012 judgment of the Bombay High Court dismissing a Goa University employee's writ petition against a disciplinary authorities' decision to dismiss him from services on the basis of complaints of sexual harassment. The case has been remanded back to the complaints committee.

Param Bir Singh

Maharashtra govt. revokes suspension of Param Bir

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government dropped all charges and revoked the suspension of former Police Commissioner of Mumbai, Param Bir Singh.

The Home Department, on May 10, revoked the suspension order that was issued in December 2021 and said the period of Mr. Singh's suspension, till the date of his retirement (June 30, 2022), should be treated as "being on duty".

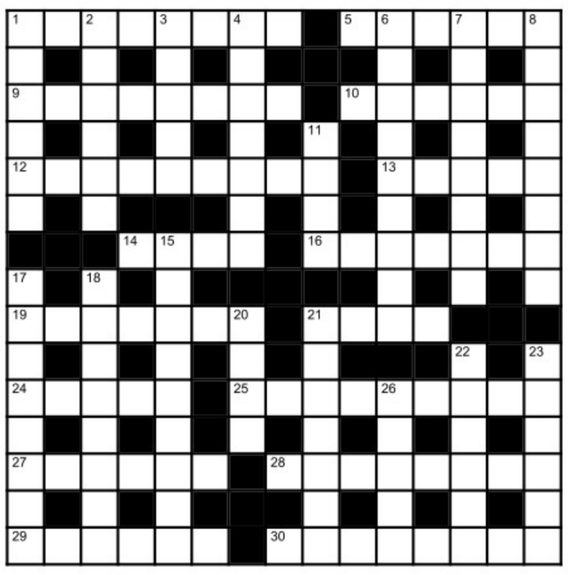
The 59-year-old was suspended and disciplinary proceedings were initiated against him for "administrative lapses", including unauthorised absence from duty.

TH CROSSWORD + 13864

(set by KrisKross)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Sweetheart cycling to end of lake to meet a fellow on the other side (8)
5 You and I about to divide cash supply exactly (2,4)
9 American company's visual image creating uproar (8)
10 Supporters rebel against America, resulting in chaos (6)
12 States with rulers killing many for tax finally (9)
13 Increase drug (5)
14 One jumping to escape, reportedly (4)
16 Endlessly cheer poor student working to get rank (7)
19 Prince from European city welcomes play's first theatre manager (7)
21 Starting to laze in bed, one could be fired (4)
24 Complain about very piercing pain (5)
25 Awkward, spinning ball … must begin to hit (3,6)
27 Food in conferences rejected, say (6)
28 Bum living outside a bar is careful (8)
29 Design box to store drug (6)
30 Exposes partners with wicked hearts (8)

Down

1 More demanding child? (6)
2 Miss Earth's robe (6)
3 Serve dal with extremely large spoon (5)
4 Condition of associates crossing explosive mines (7)
6 Steward playing chess with elan (9)
7 In Paris, a carriage participating in race in an illegal manner (8)
8 Mysterious banshees - they are said to be over the hill (3-5)
11 Man, for example, leaving a passage (4)
15 Fame after 50 - KrisKross is heading off in joy (9)
17 Terminator, for one, filled with purpose - heartless, cold and precise (8)
18 Study poetry and talk (8)
20 Play about a Biblical character (4)
21 Crash in bed, ill - occasionally rising (7)
22 Easy scratching skin at the top, holding a stick (6)
23 Actually a sibling consumes this regularly (2,2,2)
26 One surrounded by many in lift (5)

SUDOKU

					4	1	6	
6		7						
	3		9	6	5			8
	9		1				2	
7								3
	8				3		4	
2			6	3	1		9	
						3		7
	4	8	7					

No.SS5797 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	F	E		C		F		N		E		A		
A	L	E	S		A	L	I	B	I		S	P	I	T
	E		C		N		N		T		C		D	
E	X	T	O	R	T		A	I	R	F	A	R	E	S
			R		O		L		O		P			
S	E	N	T	I	N	E	L		G	R	E	E	C	E
	V		E				Y		E				A	
C	A	N	D	L	E	S		S	N	A	K	I	N	G
	D				M		B				E		O	
R	E	V	E	R	B		U	N	H	A	R	M	E	D
			L		R		S		A		O			
P	L	E	A	S	A	N	T		M	U	S	E	U	M
	I		P		C		A		P		E		S	
B	O	S	S		E	E	R	I	E		N	E	E	D
	N		E		D		D		R		E		S	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	6	2	3	1	7	8	4	5
7	5	3	8	4	6	2	1	9
8	1	4	9	5	2	6	3	7
5	8	7	4	2	3	1	9	6
2	3	1	6	9	5	4	7	8
4	9	6	1	7	8	5	2	3
1	2	8	5	3	9	7	6	4
3	7	5	2	6	4	9	8	1
6	4	9	7	8	1	3	5	2

FAITH

How Appar aced tests

Devotion takes myriad branches and quite often is a complex phenomenon. Sometimes one is led astray by friends, as was the case with Tirunavukkarasar. One of the 63 Saiva Nayanmars and second among the famous Four, he gave us the mantra, *en kadan pani seidhu kidappadhey*, meaning, 'Service is my duty'. Throughout his long life he dedicated himself to serving Siva, composing thousands of songs (Thevaram). However, the best takeaway from his life is the test of faith that he underwent, said P. Swaminathan in a discourse.

Born in the early years of the 7th Century in Cuddalore district in a staunch Saivite family, his parents, who had named him as Marulneekiyar, passed away when he was still very young and his sister Tilakavathy raised him. Marulneekiyar is drawn towards another faith due to the influence of his friends. Soon he assumes a high order among them who call him as Dharmasena. Perplexed by the change in him, his sister Tilakavathy prays earnestly to Siva. The Lord embarks on a small *Tiruvilayadal* (Siva's sport). Dharmasena finds himself suffering from unbearable stomach pain. Following his sister's advice, he visits the Siva temple near Panruti. Hymns pour out of him spontaneously and he is cured miraculously; an oracle announces that henceforth he would be known as Tirunavukkarasar. Embarking on visits to temples and composing hymns, Tirunavukkarasar visits the child saint Tirugnanasambandhar, who calls out to him as Appar, a name that lives to this day. Appar merged one with Siva in the Tamil month of Chittirai, under the sadhayam star at the Saranyapureeswarar temple in Tirupugalar.

ANKARA

Have evidence of Russia's 'deep fake' online lobbying: Erdogan rival

REUTERS

Kemal Kilicdaroglu, main challenger of Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, said on Friday his party has concrete evidence of Russia's responsibility for the release of "deep fake" online content ahead of Sunday's presidential elections. "We find it unacceptable for another nation to interfere in Turkey's poll process," he said. REUTERS

SITTWE

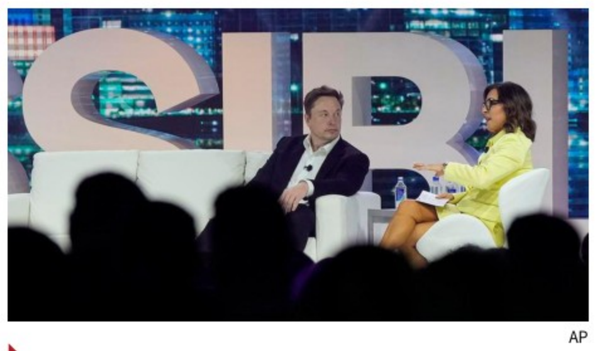
Families seek shelter in Myanmar as Cyclone Mocha approaches

AFP

Families in western Myanmar left their homes to seek shelter and higher ground on Friday ahead of a cyclone forecast to bring a storm surge to the eastern Bay of Bengal. Cyclone Mocha is predicted to make landfall on Sunday near the Bangladesh-Myanmar border, packing winds of up to 175 km per hour. AFP

SAN FRANCISCO

Linda Yaccarino is Twitter's new CEO; to be on business operations



AP

Elon Musk confirmed that the new CEO for Twitter will be NBCUniversal's Linda Yaccarino. "I am excited to welcome Linda Yaccarino as the new CEO of Twitter!" Mr. Musk tweeted on Friday. He added that Ms. Yaccarino "will focus on business operations" while Mr. Musk will be on product design and new technology. AP

LIVERPOOL

Zelensky barred from addressing Eurovision Song Contest in U.K.

AP

Organisers of Eurovision Song Contest in the U.K. say they rejected a request from President Volodymyr Zelensky to make a video address to the final of the pan-continental music competition on Saturday. He was expected to urge the world to continue its support for Ukraine's fight to repel Russian invasion. AP

Islamabad HC grants bail to Imran, bars police from rearresting him

The High Court order comes a day after the Supreme Court declared the former Prime Minister's arrest as 'unlawful'; PM Shehbaz Sharif questions the SC order, saying its 'double standards have led to the death of justice in Pakistan'

Agence France-Presse
Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan was granted bail by the Islamabad High Court on Friday, after his arrest on corruption charges this week sparked deadly clashes before being declared illegal.

But Mr. Khan was not immediately released and instead had to answer further cases. "The court has granted Imran Khan two weeks interim bail and directed the authorities not to arrest him in the [graft] case," Mr. Khan's lawyer told reporters.

Heavy cover: Security officers escorting Imran Khan as he appeared in Islamabad High Court on Friday. REUTERS

Mr. Khan was manhandled into detention by paramilitary troops at the Islamabad High Court on Tuesday, but the Supreme Court later declared the arrest "unlawful" and demanded the process be "backtracked".

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday questioned the Supreme Court's granting of relief to its "*ladla*" [Mr. Khan], saying its "double standards" have led to the death of justice in Pakistan. "When he [Imran] was presented in court yesterday, the CJP (Chief Justice of Pakistan) said it is good to see you. And, he said this in a case of corruption," he said.

"If you want to keep favouring this *ladla* (pampered), then you should also release all the dacoits behind bars in the country. Let this be free for all," he said while addressing the federal Cabinet on Friday.

On Friday, Mr. Khan arrived in a secure convoy and walked into the High Court building flanked by dozens of police and paramilitaries.

Lawyers for his party gathered in front of the court ahead of the hearing and shouted "Khan, your devotees are countless" as the ousted leader raised a fist above his head.

The Interior Minister has pledged to re-arrest Mr. Khan, who has become tangled in a slew of legal cases since he was ousted from power last April and launched a campaign against the military.

Watch our analysis: How will Pakistan's political chaos impact the region?
bit.ly/imrankhanissue

Fierce fighting renews in Gaza as truce hopes fade

Agence France-Presse
GAZA CITY

Israel and Gaza militants traded heavy fire on Friday as hopes faded of securing a truce to end days of fighting that have killed dozens, all but one of them being Palestinian.

The violence has been met with international calls for de-escalation, with the European Union pushing on Thursday for an "immediate comprehensive ceasefire".

Israel announced it was "striking Islamic Jihad targets" in the densely populated Palestinian territory, while journalists saw air strikes hit Gaza City.

Sirens warning of incoming fire meanwhile rang out in Israeli communities close to the border with the Gaza Strip, as well as blaring in an Israeli settlement near Jerusalem in the occupied West Bank.

Missile shower: People taking cover as a building is hit by an Israeli air strike in Beit Lahia, northern Gaza Strip, on Friday. AFP

Violence broke out on Tuesday when Israel killed three top members of the Islamic Jihad militant group, while subsequent strikes have killed two other senior figures.

Islamic Jihad said the latest rocket fire, seen by journalists, was a "response to the assassinations and the continued aggression against the Palestinian people".

At least 31 Palestinians have been killed, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, including militants and several civilians as well as children. The violence has left more than 90 people wounded in Gaza, according to the latest toll.

China to send envoy to Ukraine, Russia as part of peace efforts

Associated Press
BEIJING

China is sending a special envoy to Ukraine and Russia starting next week in an effort to help reach a political settlement of the Ukrainian crisis, its Foreign Ministry said on Friday.

Li Hui, who is China's special representative for Eurasian Affairs and a former Ambassador to Moscow, will also visit Poland, France and Germany, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said.

China says it remains neutral over Russia's war in Ukraine but has declared it has a "no limits" relationship with Moscow and blames the U.S. and NATO for provoking the conflict. Beijing has put forward a peace plan for Ukraine that has been largely dismissed by the

Li Hui

country's supporters, who say a resolution can only come when Russia ceases its attacks and withdraws its troops from Ukrainian territory.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping spoke by phone with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky last month, setting the stage for the diplomatic push.

China wishes to prevent an "escalation of the situation", Mr. Wang said.

California Senate passes Bill banning caste discrimination

Press Trust of India
WASHINGTON

The California Senate has overwhelmingly passed a legislation seeking to explicitly ban caste discrimination, in a historic move that would make America's most populous State also the country's first to outlaw caste-based bias.

State Senator Aisha Wahab, the first Muslim and Afghan American elected to the state legislature, introduced the Bill last month.

Passed by 34-1 vote, the Bill - SB 403, would make California the first U.S. State to add caste as a protected category in its anti-discrimination laws.

Promoters of the Bill, being led by non-profit Equality Lab, said that a similar Bill is being introduced in the State House of Representatives, before it can be sent to the Governor to be signed into a law.

The Bill adds caste as a protected category to an existing law, the Unruh Civil Rights Act, which provides that all people in California are entitled to full and equal accommodations, facilities, or services in all establishments.

The Bill provides explicit protections to those who have been systemically harmed due to caste bias and prejudice. It also provides firm legal consequences for those seeking to avoid responsibility or ramifications for permitting or participating in caste discrimination and caste-based violence.

However, many Indian Americans fear that codifying caste in public policy will further fuel instances of Hinduphobia in the U.S.

Russia acknowledges retreat north of Bakhmut; Wagner chief calls it a 'rout'

Reuters
KYIV/KOSTIANTYNIVKA

Moscow acknowledged on Friday that its forces had fallen back north of Ukraine's battlefield city of Bakhmut after a new Ukrainian offensive, in a retreat that the head of Russia's Wagner private Army called a rout.

The setback for Russia, which follows similar reports of Ukrainian advances south of the city, suggests a coordinated push by Kyiv to encircle Russian forces in Bakhmut, Moscow's main objective for months during the war's bloodiest fighting.

It means both sides are now reporting the biggest Ukrainian gains in six months, although Ukraine has given few details and played down suggestions a huge, long-planned counteroffensive had officially begun.

Russian Defence Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said Ukraine had launched an assault north of Bakhmut with more than 1,000 troops and up to 40 tanks, a scale that if confirmed would amount to the biggest Ukrainian offensive since November.

Russia says Ukraine had launched an assault with more than 1,000 troops and up to 40 tanks

The Russians had repelled 26 attacks but troops in one area had fallen back to regroup in more favourable positions near the Berkhivka reservoir northwest of Bakhmut, Mr. Konashenkov said.

Yevgeny Prigozhin, head of the Wagner forces that have led the campaign in the city, said in an audio message: "What Konashenkov described, unfortunately, is called 'a rout' and not a regrouping".

Mr. Prigozhin said the Ukrainians had seized high ground overlooking Bakhmut and opened the main highway leading into the city from the West.

Ukraine typically withholds comment on its operations, and the military command has said only that its troops have pushed forward about 2 km near Bakhmut.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 34,35 /2023-24/SE/PHC/MVPA, JJM- Supply and laying distribution system and Providing FHTCs in Nedumkandam Panchayath - Pipeline Work & JJM - Udumbannoor - 2021 - 22 Providing Functional Household Tap Connections in Udumbanoor Panchayath - Phase-II General Civil Work. **EMD:** Rs. 5,00,000/- Each, **Tender fee :** Rs. 16,540/- Each, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 02-06-2023 04:00:pm, **Phone :** 0485-2835637
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer,
KWA-JB-GL-6-262-2023-24 PH Circle, Muvattupuzha

APSFL Andhra Pradesh State FiberNet Limited
NTR Administrative Block, 3rd Floor, PNBS, Vijayawada-520010.
Web address: www.apsfl.in; Email: apsfl@ap.gov.in
Andhra Pradesh State FiberNet Limited (APSFL) invites proposals from prospective vendors having experience of providing services / items for ***"LEASING OF OPTICAL FIBER CABLE NETWORK (DARK FIBER) UNDER BHARATNET PHASE-II, ANDHRA PRADESH"***. Interested firms are requested to submit their proposals for the above work. The RfP document & other details can be downloaded from the website: **www.apsfl.in** & **www.apeprocurement.gov.in**
DIPR 2078PP/CL, Dt.12.05.2023

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त बून्दी (राज.)
क्रमांकः केशियर/डी-244 दिनांकः 05.05.2023
संशोधित निविदा सूचना संख्या 02/2023-2024
इस कार्यालय के पत्र क्रमांक 61 दिनांक 13.04.2023 द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा सूचना संख्या 02/2023-24 में ऑन-लाईन निविदा फार्म मिलने एवं जमा कराने की दिनांक 21.04.2023 से 11.05.2023 नियत की गई थी। अपरिहार्य कारणों से संशोधित कर निविदा ऑन-लाईन फार्म जमा कराने की दिनांक 17.05.2023 नियत की जाती है एवं निविदा दिनांक 19.05.2023 सायं 3.00 बजे कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सानिवि वृत्त बून्दी में खोली जावेगी।
निविदा की शर्तें एवं निविदा प्रपत्र हेतु संबंधित वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in तथा http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है।
NIB code (PWD2324A0122)
UBN is (PWD2324WSOB00530) UBN is (PWD2324WSOB00531)
UBN is (PWD2324WSOB00532) UBN is (PWD2324WSOB00533)
UBN is (PWD2324WSOB00534) UBN is (PWD2324WSOB00535)
UBN is (PWD2324WSOB00536) UBN is (PWD2324WSOB00537)
(वी. के. जैन)
डीआईपीआर/सी/6618/2023 अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. वृत बून्दी

OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER P.W.D. ZONE TONK
File No:- 341-350 Dated :- 03.05.2023
Notice Inviting Bid
NIT 03/2023-24
10 Nos. Bids for Upgradation of Rural Road PMGSY Scheme under Phase-III (Batch-II) for the year 2022-23, Zone Tonk (Provision of Defect liability period is 5 Years) are invited from interested bidders upto 15.05.2023 Time 12.00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **(http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) http://pmgsytendersraj.gov.in** of the state; and Public Works department Rajasthan website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 5094.90 Lacs.
NIB code PWD2324A0362
PWD2324WLOB01578 PWD2324WSOB01580 PWD2324WLOB01585
PWD2324WLOB01589 PWD2324WSOB01594 PWD2324WSOB01597
PWD2324WSOB01602 PWD2324WLOB01604 PWD2324WLOB01608
PWD2324WSOB01610
(R.S. Bairwa)
Addl. Chief Engineer,
DIPR/C/6658 P.W.D., Zone, Tonk

कार्यालय अधिशाषी अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग खण्ड, खेतड़ी
क्रमांकः 261-66 दिनांक : 04.05.2023
निविदा संशोधन सूचना संख्या 22 वर्ष 2022-23
इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 6552-63 दिनांक 31.03.2023 द्वारा जारी निविदा सूचना संख्या 22 वर्ष 2022-23 आमंत्रित की गई थी, जिसकी निविदा जमा करवाने एवं निविदा को खोलने की तिथि 05.05.2023 थी। उक्त निविदा में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है:-

विवरण	पूर्व में प्रकाशित दिनांक एवं समय	संशोधित दिनांक एवं समय
निविदा जमा की तारीख	31.03.2023 प्रातः 10.00 बजे से 05.05.2023 को दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक	31.03.2023 प्रातः 10.00 बजे से 17.05.2023 को दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक
निविदा खोलने की तारीख	05.05.2023 सायं 05.00 बजे	17.05.2023 सायं 05.00 बजे

NIB No. : PWD2223A5063 UBN No.
1. PWD2223WSOB20527 2. PWD2223WSOB20528
3. PWD2223WSOB20529 4. PWD2223WSOB20530
5. PWD2223WSOB20531 6. PWD2223WSOB20532
7. PWD2223WSOB20533 8. PWD2223WSOB20534
निविदा की शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।
अधिशाषी अभियन्ता
DIPR/C/6669/23 सा.नि.वि. खण्ड खेतड़ी

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग संभाग-प्रथम उदयपुर
क्रमांकः- 86 दिनांकः 05.05.2023
निविदा संशोधन सूचना-2
इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी निविदा सूचना संख्या 18/2022-23 दिनांक 27.03.2023 के क्रम में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है।

क्र. सं.	पूर्व में प्रकाशित शर्त/नियम	संशोधन
1.	3 (i) विगत वर्षों में सम्पादित की गयी सामग्री की अनिवार्यता।	विलोपित
2	4 (h) Potential/Post Qualification के तहत बैंक से Credit facility प्रमाण पत्र प्रस्तुत करना।	(मुख्य अभियंता सा.नि.वि. राजस्थान जयपुर के परिपत्र क्रमांक 16 दिनांक 28.04.2023 के अनुसार)
3	—	जोइन्ट वेन्चर अनुमत (मुख्य अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. राजस्थान जयपुर के परिपत्र क्रमांक 282 दिनांक 04.05.2023 के अनुसार)
4	—	जी.एस.टी. का भुगतान (मुख्य अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. राजस्थान जयपुर के परिपत्र क्रमांक 44 दिनांक 04.05.2023 के अनुसार) देय होगा।

5. निविदा की तारीखों में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है :—

विवरण	संशोधित दिनांक
ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म मिलने एवं जमा कराने की अंतिम तारीख	16.05.2023, सायं 6 बजे तक
ऑनलाइन निविदा खोलने की तारीख	17.05.2023, सायं 4.00 बजे

निविदा में वर्णित अन्य सभी शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।
NIB- PWD2223A4960
UBN- PWD2223WLOB20024, PWD2223WLOB20025, PWD2223WLOB20026, PWD2223WLOB20027, PWD2223WLOB20028, PWD2223WLOB20030, PWD2223WLOB20032, PWD2223WLOB20034, PWD2223WLOB20036, PWD2223WLOB20037, PWD2223WSOB20038, PWD2223WSOB20039
(अशोक कुमार शर्मा)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
डीआईपीआर/सी/6647/2023 सा.नि.वि. संभाग-प्रथम उदयपुर

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(GATI SHAKTI / MADURAI)
E-TENDER NOTICE No. GS-MDU-08-2023 Dated: 10.05.2023
For and on behalf of The President of India. The Chief Project Manager, Gati Shakti, Southern Railway, Madurai - 625 016 invites e-tender for the work as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal **www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderers / contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only **online tenders will be accepted.**

Tender No.	Name of the work	Approximate Cash Value in Lakhs	Bid Security / EMD in ₹	Period of Completion in Months	Closing Opening Date @
GS-MDU-2023-11A	MADURAI DIVISION RAJAPALAYAM RAILWAY STATION - Improvements to circulating area, station buildings, facade and platform under 'AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME	525.60	412800.00	Five	01.06.2023 @ 15:00 hours
GS-MDU-2023-10A	MADURAI DIVISION SHOLAVANDAN RAILWAY STATION - Improvements to circulating area, station buildings, facade and platform under 'AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME	444.24	372100.00	Five	01.06.2023 @ 15:00 hours
GS-MDU-2023-16B	MADURAI DIVISION SRIVILLIPUTHUR RAILWAY STATION - Improvements to circulating area, station buildings, facade and platform under 'AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME	424.15	362100.00	Five	01.06.2023 @ 15:00 hours
GS-MDU-2023-13A	MADURAI DIVISION TENKASI RAILWAY STATION - Improvements to circulating area, station buildings, facade and platform under 'AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME	489.35	394700.00	Five	01.06.2023 @ 15:00 hours
GS-MDU-2023-7A	MADURAI DIVISION KOVILPATTI RAILWAY STATION - Improvements to circulating area, station buildings, facade and platform under 'AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME	532.94	416500.00	Five	01.06.2023 @ 15:00 hours

For futher details, refer to Website portal **www.ireps.gov.in**
It is responsibility of the tenderer to check any Corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in the website, the same shall be taken into account while submitting tender.
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

INBRIEF

FM meets IMF MD Georgieva on sidelines of G7 meeting

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday met International Monetary Fund (IMF) managing director K. Georgieva on the sidelines of G7 Finance Minister Central Bank Governors meet. Ms. Sitharaman also met Brazilian counterpart Haddad Fernando on the sidelines of the G7FMCBG meet. Mr. Fernando appreciated India's organisation of the G20 presidency and its piloting of significant global economic issues, the finance ministry said in a tweet. PTI

Kennametal India Q3 net profit slides 42% to ₹16 cr.

Kennametal India Ltd. reported a 42% decline in net profit for the quarter ended March from the year-earlier period to ₹16 crore. Revenue from operations increased 4% to ₹256 crore, while cost of materials consumed contracted by 6% to ₹69 crore, the company said in a filing. While the Hard Metals segment witnessed growth, there was an impact due to manufacturing under absorption. The board declared an interim dividend of ₹20 per share, to be paid by May 25.

Rane Holdings consolidated Q4 net loss narrows to ₹8 cr.

Rane Holdings Ltd.'s (RHL) consolidated net loss for the quarter ended March has narrowed to ₹8 crore from ₹13 crore in the year-earlier period due to higher volumes and improved operational performance. Revenue from operations increased by 20% to ₹938 crore, while costs of material rose 16% to ₹515 crore, the company said in a regulatory filing. The board declared a dividend of ₹17 per share, which would be paid by August 11.

Manufacturing, electricity output drag IIP growth to a 5-month low

Industrial production expanded 1.1% in March, braking sharply from February's 5.8% pace as power, consumer durables and non-durables posted year-on-year contractions; factory output growth moderated to 5.1% in FY23, from 11.4% a year earlier

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Industrial output growth slid to a five-month low of 1.1% in March, slowing sharply from February's 5.8% as electricity, consumer durables and non-durables recorded contractions from a year earlier, and manufacturing expanded just 0.5%.

Mining output grew 6.8% in March, while capital goods and infrastructure goods production rose 8.1% and 5.4%, respectively. Primary goods' output growth, however, more than halved sequentially, from 6.9% in February to 3.3% in March.

Electricity generation contracted 1.6%, marking the first decline in at least a year. The dip in power output followed three months of 10%-plus growth through January and an 8.2% uptick in February.

Flagging consumption

Consumer durables' output shrank for the fourth month in a row, contracting 8.4%.

For fiscal 2022-23, industrial production grew 5.1%, slowing from FY22's 11.4% pace.

Electricity generation rose 8.9% in the year with mining and manufacturing, rising 5.8% and 4.5%, respectively.

"IIP growth of 1.1%... is a major disappointment as we had expected a better number of 3.5%," said Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at Bank of Baroda.

"The usual year-end phenomenon of production being ramped up in March did not happen this time. The IIP numbers also don't gel with the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) indicators, so we need to view the PMI readings with caution," he emphasised.

Momentum weakens

Industrial production growth skidded to the slowest pace in five months as manufacturing weakness weighed on overall output

- Manufacturing output expanded 0.5% in the final month of the last fiscal year
- Electricity generation shrank 1.6%, the first decline in at least a year
- Consumer durables' output shrank for the fourth month in a row, contracting 8.4%

Aviation leasing watchdog puts India on watchlist for NCLT's Go First order

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The global aviation leasing watchdog has placed India on a watchlist, assigning it "negative" outlook following the National Company Law Tribunal's order barring bankrupt Go First's lessors from repossessing planes while the airline is under insolvency process.

"The deregistration requests from lessors can't be processed on account of the moratorium order granted by the NCLT," a senior DGCA official told *The Hindu* on Friday.

The Aviation Working Group, which oversees implementation of the Cape Town Convention and its Aircraft Protocol – a treaty designed to facilitate financing and leasing of aviation equipment, said its outlook is based on the "DGCA's failure to process deregistration application for aircraft whose leases were terminated prior to the intimation of the moratorium".

Lessors maintain that the court order cannot apply retrospectively, and under the Cape Town Convention (CTC), to which India is a signatory, when an insolvency is initiated, the insolvency administrator or debtor has to give possession of aircraft to the lessor within 60 days. At least three lessors have moved appeals against the NCLT order.

'Higher risk premiums'

The NCLT order preventing recovery of aircraft by lessors "has raised significant concerns among aviation industry lessors and creditors regarding the risks associated with aircraft leasing in India, which could result in higher risk premiums on local airlines, pushing up lease rentals and consequently ticket prices," said Nilaya Varma, Co-founder & CEO, Primus Partners.

Boeing India's President Salil Gupte urged the Indian government to push through the draft legislation (Protection and Enforcement of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2022) which would implement CTC in India.

"This will provide more comfort to lessors in placing their assets and protect their interests," Mr. Gupte said at a media event.

MSCI drops two Adani firms from India Index

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Shares of Adani Total Gas and Adani Transmission fell in the morning trade on Friday after MSCI announced the two companies will move out of the MSCI India Index with effect from May 31.

Stocks of Adani Total Gas tumbled 5% to ₹812.60 – its lower circuit limit – on the BSE while shares of Adani Transmission slid 5% to its lowest permissible limit for trading for the day at ₹871.15.

Indus Towers will also move out of the Index.

RBI tells banks to shift wholly from LIBOR by July

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised banks and other RBI-regulated entities asking them to ensure complete transition away from the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) from July 1.

They have been advised to ensure no new transaction undertaken by them or their customers rely on or are priced using the U.S. Dollar LIBOR or the Mumbai Interbank Forward Outright Rate. In 2021, the Financial Conduct Authority, U.K. had said all LIBOR settings would either cease to be provided by any administrator or no longer be representative.

Risk of U.S. default adds to slowing global economy's woes: Malpass

Reuters
NIIGATA, JAPAN

The risk of a U.S. default is adding to problems facing the slowing global economy, with rising interest rates and high debt levels already choking back investments needed to fuel higher output, World Bank President David Malpass said on Friday.

Group of Seven (G7) finance officials meeting in Japan discussed the "very high importance" of raising the U.S. debt limit and averting the negative repercussions of a potential default on U.S. government debt for the first time ever.

'Negative for everyone'

"Clearly, distress in the world's biggest economy would be negative for everyone," he told Reuters on the sidelines of the G7 meeting. "The repercussions would be bad to not get it done."

David Malpass

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen on Friday reiterated that failure by Congress to raise the $31.4 trillion debt limit would result in economic and financial catastrophe, and urged the Republican-controlled House of Representatives to agree to lift the federal debt limit.

Mr. Malpass said there had been discussion during the G7 meetings about the need to boost productivity and growth, and also deal with a high debt overhang facing a growing number of countries.

Global growth was slated to fall below 2% in 2023, and could stay low for several years, he said. One of the big challenges was that advanced economies had taken on so much debt that it would take a lot of capital to service it, leaving too little investment for developing countries, he said.

"And that means a prolonged period of slow growth. That's a big worry, and especially for people in poorer countries," he said. "The world's in a stressful spot, but I think the financial systems are holding up. The big question is growth, how do you get more growth and productivity."

'Debt restructuring key'

Mr. Malpass said it was frustrating to see the slow progress on overall debt restructuring, noting how difficult it was for countries to attract investment until they had agreements in place to make their debt more sustainable.

"To actually get to these debt reductions is so important ... for poor countries that have hit the wall in terms of unsustainable debt. It's important to get it done as soon as possible."

G7 finance chiefs weigh paring supply chain reliance on China

Reuters
NIIGATA, JAPAN

Finance leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) advanced economies discussed the need to make global supply chains more resilient by reducing over-reliance on China, German Finance Minister Christian Lindner said on Friday.

Christian Lindner

Japan, which is hosting a three-day G7 meeting to debate key global themes, has been leading fresh efforts to diversify supply chains away from China by building partnerships with low- and middle-income countries through investment and aid.

Countries such as Germany wanted to reduce its dependency on China, Mr. Lindner told a press conference. "Here, emerging and low income countries come into play," he added.

But while the G7 rich democracies are likely to agree on the partnership deal to beef up supply chains, they are not on the same page in terms of how far they should go in countering China – the world's second largest economy that is not a G7 member.

The U.S. is at the forefront in pushing for stronger steps. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has called for targeted controls in investment to China to counter what she saw as Beijing's "economic coercion" against other countries.

While wary of China as a strategic rival, Germany is cautious, however, of being seen as forging a G7 front against Beijing given its heavy reliance on trade with the country.

Japan is also sceptical about the idea of investment controls due to the huge impact such a move could have on global trade and its own economy, government officials say. A Japanese finance ministry official said Japan's initiatives were not targeted at any particular country.

PV dispatches rose 13% in April: SIAM

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Domestic passenger vehicle (PV) dispatches witnessed a 13% year-on-year rise in April as demand remained robust across segments, industry body SIAM said on Friday.

The total PV dispatches from companies to dealers rose to 3,31,278 units in April compared with 2,93,303 units in the year-earlier period.

Market leader Maruti Suzuki India dispatched 1,37,320 units to dealers last month against 1,21,995 units in April last year.

Hyundai Motor India, on the other hand, sold 49,701 units in April compared to 44,001 units in the year-ago period. Similarly, two-wheeler dispatches increased by 15% Y-o-Y to 13,38,588 units.

"All the segments posted growth in April which clearly indicates the industry has been able to transit very smoothly to BSVI Phase 2 emission norms," said Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers President Vinod Aggarwal.

IOB Q4 net rises 18% to ₹650 crore on higher income

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) reported standalone net profit for the quarter ended March rose 18% from the year-earlier period to ₹650 crore on account of healthy growth in net interest income and an improvement in asset quality.

Interest income rose 23% to ₹5,192 crore.

Net interest income increased to ₹2,276 crore from ₹1,610 crore.

Net interest margin grew to 3.20% from 2.41%, the public sector lender said in a regulatory filing.

Tata Motors turns Q4 net of ₹5,408 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tata Motors Ltd. reported fourth-quarter consolidated net profit of ₹5,408 crore compared with a net loss of ₹1,033 crore in the year-earlier period owing to robust performance.

Revenue grew 35% to ₹1,05,017 crore. For FY23, the company reported a net profit of ₹2,414 crore compared with a net loss of ₹11,441 crore inFY22. FY23 revenue grew 24.2% to ₹3,42,875 crore.

The board of directors has recommended a final dividend of ₹2 per ordinary share and ₹2.1 per share for DVR shareholders.

"We remain optimistic on the demand situation despite near-term uncertainties and expect a moderate inflationary environment in the near term," the company said,

"The distinct strategy employed by each business is delivering in unison, leading to a sharp improvement in the overall results," said Group CFO P. B. Balaji.

Chola FHL consolidated Q4 net rises 31% to ₹901 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Cholamandalam Financial Holdings Ltd. (Chola FHL) has reported a 31% growth in consolidated Q4 net profit from the year-earlier period to ₹901 crore.

Total revenue from operations grew to ₹5,186 crore from ₹3,743 crore, the core investment company of the Murugappa Group said in a filing.

Cholamandalam Investment & Finance Co. Ltd. reported a net profit of ₹853 crore against ₹690 crore.

The company board declared a final dividend of 55 paise per share.

RBI to join 12 other regulators to tackle 'greenwashing' risks

Businessline Bureau
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said it will join 12 international regulators in the Global Financial Innovation Network (GFIN)'s first-ever Greenwashing TechSprint to develop a tool to help regulators and the market effectively tackle the risks of greenwashing in financial services.

The central bank noted the number of investment products marketed as 'green' was growing.

"Exaggerated, misleading or unsubstantiated claims about Environmental, Social and Governance credentials damage confidence in the products and the RBI wants to ensure consumers and firms can trust the products have the sustainability characteristics they claim," the RBI said in a statement.

The central bank would be participating in a virtual TechSprint, hosted on the Financial Conduct Authority's digital sandbox, to bring together international regulators, firms and innovators to address sustainable finance as a collective priority.

TechSprint would commence on June 5 and run for three months, ending in September.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	62,028	0.20
US Dollar	82.18	-0.10
Gold	60,970	-0.65
Brent oil	74.48	-1.12

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1964.70	-19.95
Adani Ports	700.00	-8.80
Apollo Hosp	4605.25	9.95
Asian Paints	3131.10	-8.65
Axis Bank	910.65	14.70
Bajaj Auto	4538.90	-9.00
Bajaj Finserv	1423.45	3.05
Bajaj Finance	6714.40	50.95
Bharti Airtel	791.95	3.35
BPCL	361.90	-10.65
Britannia Ind	4616.50	-18.65
Cipla	937.45	-6.15
Coal India	235.05	-1.10
Divis Lab	3315.05	-14.15
Dr Reddys Lab	4466.10	-65.90
Eicher Motors	3626.35	221.05
Grasim Ind	1753.85	-20.30
HCL Tech	1095.50	7.40
HDFC	2776.30	9.15
HDFC Bank	1667.80	14.60
HDFC Life	560.65	-6.75
Hero MotoCorp	2605.90	20.45
Hindalco	404.75	-16.10
Hind Unilever	2623.40	31.00
ICICI Bank	943.90	4.70
IndusInd Bank	1208.65	21.20
Infosys	1245.20	-10.90
ITC	420.45	0.05
JSW Steel	702.65	-7.95
Kotak Bank	1960.60	2.65
L&T	2221.10	-21.05
M&M	1275.95	24.65
Maruti Suzuki	9295.40	34.50
NestleIndia	21794.15	-225.65
NTPC	174.95	-4.60
ONGC	165.50	-1.55
PowerGrid Corp	241.75	-6.80
Reliance Ind	2484.35	4.05
SBI Life	1187.05	1.65
State Bank	578.15	4.70
Sun Pharma	956.00	-5.05
TataConsumerProduct	789.05	-0.40
Tata Motors	515.95	4.35
Tata Steel	106.75	-1.80
TCS	3274.30	-7.85
Tech Mahindra	1046.35	2.30
Titan	2773.20	15.35
UltraTech Cement	7702.95	-132.50
UPL	678.20	-4.70
Wipro	383.25	-1.40

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 12

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.96	82.28
Euro	89.42	89.80
British Pound	102.69	103.13
Japanese Yen (100)	60.84	61.08
Chinese Yuan	11.80	11.85
Swiss Franc	91.81	92.17
Singapore Dollar	61.43	61.68
Canadian Dollar	60.75	60.99
Malaysian Ringitt	18.30	18.39
Australian Dollar	54.79	55.06

Source:Indian Bank

Suryakumar hammers maiden IPL century as Mumbai moves to third

The batter's 49-ball unbeaten 103 contains 11 fours and six maximums; Rashid lone bright spot for Gujarat as Rohit's men have the final say

Stars of the night: Rashid's allround performance was put in the shade by Suryakumar's incredible knock. EMMANUAL YOGINI

IPL-16

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

Suryakumar Yadav had to wait nine seasons for this moment. At the Wankhede Stadium on Friday, it was a dream-come-true as he scored his maiden Indian Premier League century (103 n.o., 49b, 11x4 6x6) and set up Mumbai Indians' 27-run win over Gujarat Titans.

The Mumbai outfit rode on Suryakumar's highest individual score in the tournament to reach 218 for five and became the first side to register five 200-plus totals in an IPL season. Led by seamer Akash Madhwal (three for 31), the hosts restricted the visitors to 191 for eight despite Rashid Khan's remarkable assault (79 n.o., 32b, 3x4, 10x6).

With the Titans bowlers struggling to grip the ball towards the end of the Mumbai Indians innings, Suryakumar cashed in and amassed 54 in the last three overs. He played shots all over the ground before bringing up his century with a six off the final delivery of the innings. The home crowd gave him a standing ovation.

Titans relied on their world-class bowlers for early breakthroughs after putting Mumbai Indians in, but Mohammed Shami conceded 17 off his second over – the third of the innings – as openers Rohit Sharma and Ishan Kishan laid a good foundation. Rohit scored 14 off Mohit Sharma's first over on a batting beauty as Mumbai Indians raced to 61 for no loss in the PowerPlay.

Rashid struck twice right after the PowerPlay, removing Rohit and Ishan in a space of four deliveries, and Nehal Wadhera immediately. But a determined Suryakumar forged a crucial 65-run stand with Vishnu Vinod (30, 20b, 2x4, 2x6), who was featuring in an IPL game after 2017 to wrest the initiative.

While chasing, Titans lost Impact Player Shubman Gill, Wriddhiman Saha and Hardik Pandya inside the first four overs, with Madhwal and left-arm pace Jason Behrendorff tightening the screws. David Miller and Vijay Shankar attempted to rebuild, before Piyush Chawla dismissed the latter right after the PowerPlay.

Kumar Kartikeya chipped in with two wickets to leave Titans reeling at 103 for eight before Rashid spiced things up while putting on an unbroken 88-run stand with Alzarri Joseph. Though the Afghan all-rounder entertained the crowd with some towering sixes, it was not enough to guide the table-topper home.

SCOREBOARD

MUMBAI INDIANS
Ishan Kishan lbw b Rashid 31 *(20b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Rohit Sharma c Tewatia b Rashid 29 *(18b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Suryakumar Yadav (not out) 103 *(49b, 11x4, 6x6)*, Nehal Wadhera b Rashid 15 *(7b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Vishnu Vinod c Abhinav b Mohit 30 *(20b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Tim David c & b Rashid 5 *(3b, 1x4)*, Cameron Green (not out) 3 *(3b)*; Extras (lb-2): 2; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 218.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-61 (Rohit, 6.1 overs), 2-66 (Kishan, 6.5), 3-88 (Wadhera, 8.6), 4-153 (Vishnu, 15.6), 5-164 (David, 16.6).

TITANS BOWLING
Shami 4-0-53-0, Mohit 4-0-43-1, Rashid 4-0-30-4, Noor 4-0-38-0, Joseph 4-0-52-0.

GUJARAT TITANS
Wriddhiman Saha lbw b Madhwal 2 *(5b)*, Shubman Gill **(Impact Player in place of Mohit)** b Madhwal 6 *(9b)*, Hardik Pandya c Kishan b Behrendorff 4 *(3b, 1x4)*, Vijay Shankar b Chawla 29 *(14b, 6x4)*, David Miller lbw b Madhwal 41 *(26b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Abhinav Manohar b Kartikeya 2 *(3b)*, Rahul Tewatia c Green b Chawla 14 *(13b, 1x4)*, Rashid Khan (not out) 79 *(32b, 3x4, 10x6)*, Noor Ahmad b Kartikeya 1 *(3b)*, Alzarri Joseph (not out) 7 *(12b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-3, w-3): 6; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 191.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-7 (Saha, 1.5), 2-12 (Hardik, 2.3), 3-26 (Gill, 3.5), 4-48 (Vijay Shankar, 6.1), 5-55 (Abhinav, 7.1), 6-100 (Miller, 11.6), 7-100 (Tewatia, 12.1), 8-103 (Noor, 13.2).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING
Behrendorff 4-0-37-1, Madhwal **(Impact Player in place of Vishnu)** 4-0-31-3, Jordan 4-0-34-0, Chawla 4-0-36-2, Kartikeya 3-0-37-2, Green 1-0-13-0.
Toss: Titans; **PoM:** Suryakumar.
Mumbai Indians won by 27 runs.

Next assignment

GT: May 15 **vs. SRH**
Ahmedabad, 7.30 p.m.

MI: May 16 **vs. LSG**
Lucknow, 7.30 p.m.

Rollicking start: Royals' openers put on a show in Hyderabad.

A play for power

The first six overs, with fielding restrictions, is a prized opportunity for the batting team to gain leverage but it can also make or break its innings. A glance at how the sides have fared in the PowerPlay (PP) in IPL 2023 and how it has impacted the result

Overall: Highest: 85/1, RR vs SRH, Hyderabad; Lowest: 26/2, RR vs GT, Ahmedabad

Team	Highest PP	Vs	Result	Venue	Lowest PP	Vs	Result	Venue	Avg. Run Rate
RR	85/1	SRH	RR won by 72 runs	Hyderabad	26/2	GT	RR won by 3 wickets	Ahmedabad	9.79
CSK	79/0	LSG	CSK won by 12 runs	Chennai	42/1	RR	RR won by 32 runs	Jaipur	9.36
GT	78/0	LSG	GT won by 56 runs	Ahmedabad	31/3	DC	DC won by 5 runs	Ahmedabad	8.65
RCB	75/2	CSK	CSK won by 8 runs	Bengaluru	42/0	LSG	RCB won by 18 runs	Lucknow	9.22
LSG	80/1	CSK	CSK won by 12 runs	Chennai	30/1	DC	LSG won by 50 runs	Lucknow	8.21
MI	72/1	KKR	MI won by 5 wickets	Mumbai	29/1	GT	GT won by 55 runs	Ahmedabad	8.71
DC	70/1	RCB	DC won by 7 wickets	Delhi	28/5	GT	DC won by 5 runs	Ahmedabad	8.06
KKR	66/0	RCB	KKR won by 21 runs	Bengaluru	35/3	DC	DC won by 4 wickets	Delhi	8.23
SRH	65/2	KKR	SRH won bt 23 runs	Hyderabad	30/2	RR	RR won by 72 runs	Hyderabad	7.7
PBKS	63/0	RR	PBKS won by 5 runs	Guwahati	41/3	SRH	SRH won by 8 wickets	Hyderabad	8.92

Stats up to the KKR-RR match on May 11 | COMPILED BY KEERTHANA SHANKAR

Super Giants need to come good against Sunrisers

V.S. Aravind
HYDERABAD

Key players: It would greatly help Super Giants' cause if skipper Krunal, Mayers, Avesh and Pooran come good. K.V.S. GIRI

Sunrisers Hyderabad hit the nets early on Friday as it prepared to host Lucknow Super Giants in a crucial encounter at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium on Saturday.

The race for playoffs has begun, and the Krunal Pandya-led side finds itself in a must-win encounter against Sunrisers that is in ninth position in the points table. Super Giants, stationed fifth with 11 points, still has a chance to qualify, having won five and lost an equal number of matches.

The visitors will hope the likes of Kyle Mayers and Quinton de Kock continue their fine form after the openers blazed away in the last game, stitching an 88-run stand with the latter scoring a sublime half-century. However, the form of Deepak Hooda has been a concern, the all-rounder failing to make an impact with the bat.

While Ayush Badoni has been a rising star for Super Giants, overseas players like Marcus Stoinis and Nicholas Pooran have blown hot and cold this season. Even Krunal is struggling to make an impact with the bat, and the team would hope the skipper bounces back with almost every game being a virtual knockout from this stage.

For Sunrisers, Abhishek Sharma's promotion has worked and he has been supported well by Anmolpreet Singh and Rahul Tripathi. With the other batters, including skipper Aiden Markram, clicking in patches, the host would look to make amends.

Today's matches

Hyderabad, 3.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 2
SRH 0 | LSG 2
PREVIOUS MEETING
LSG won by **five wickets**, 2023

Delhi, 7.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 30
DC 15 | PBKS 15
PREVIOUS MEETING
DC won by **17 runs**, 2022

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

Capitals look to pull down Kings in a battle of strugglers

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

The first team to go out of reckoning for a place in the playoffs, Delhi Capitals will look for company when it takes on struggling Punjab Kings twice in the space of five days in their 'Northern Derby'.

A win for Capitals at the Ferozeshah Kotla ground on Saturday will end Punjab Kings' chances of going beyond the league.

Missing the cut

So far, Kolkata Knight Riders and Capitals are the ones certain of missing the 'cut' for the playoffs after suffering seven losses.

In a 10-team league, where each team plays 14 times, a minimum of 16 points is considered enough to be in the top-four bracket.

Notwithstanding the fact that this clash involves non-champion sides from the bottom-three of the points table, two players with most fours in IPL – left-handed openers and rival captains Shikhar Dhawan (748) and David Warner (624) – will be around to add to these numbers.

This season, Capitals has paid heavily for its inconsistency. From the non-availability of Rishabh Pant to the lack of batting form hurt the team.

As the campaign headed towards the business-end, Capitals relied on four overseas batters at the top of the order and a home-grown bowling unit to stay alive in the race for the playoffs.

But the familiar batting debacle, against host Chennai Super Kings, returned to dash Capitals' qualifying prospects.

Punjab Kings, too, appears headed for a bottom-half finish on the points table. Though Dhawan, Jitesh Sharma and Prabhsimran Singh contributed with the bat, the team expected more from Sam Curran, acquired at ₹18.50 crore.

With just 196 runs and seven wickets to show from 11 matches, this England all-rounder has not proved true value-for-money this season.

Among the bowlers, Arshdeep Singh (16 wickets from 11 matches) has had a mixed season. Despite having bowling options like Rahul Chahar, Kagiso Rabada, Sikandar Raza, Liam Livingstone and Rishi Dhawan, the team, after winning the first two matches, often failed to strike big when defending totals.

Points Table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Gujarat Titans	12	8	4	0	16	0.761
Chennai Super Kings	12	7	4	1	15	0.493
Mumbai Indians	12	7	5	0	14	-0.117
Rajasthan Royals	12	6	6	0	12	0.633
Lucknow Super Giants	11	5	5	1	11	0.294
Royal Challengers	11	5	6	0	10	-0.345
Kolkata Knight Riders	12	5	7	0	10	-0.357
Punjab Kings	11	5	6	0	10	-0.441
Sunrisers Hyderabad	10	4	6	0	8	-0.472
Delhi Capitals	11	4	7	0	8	-0.605

After the MI-GT match on May 12

NOT OUT YET

We know the kind of cricket we have to play: Lara

Sunrisers Hyderabad head coach Brian Lara, on the eve of the Lucknow Super Giants game, said: "We know the kind of cricket we have to play. We got to go on a run and that should start tomorrow. It's definitely not going to end at 6.50 p.m. We want it to continue till the end."

VINTAGE MSD

Dhoni has found his best again, says Graeme Smith

M.S. Dhoni has "found his best again", feels former South Africa captain Graeme Smith. "The pressure on him every time he goes to bat is enormous. There is a roar every time he gets on strike, and the crowd goes berserk. It's incredible to watch," said Smith.

SWEET 16

Feel fortunate to have played for RCB from day one: Kohli

Virat Kohli, who has been playing for RCB since the first season of the IPL, said: "I feel really fortunate. It's been a constant relationship based on trust from both ends. The value that I have seen fans connecting with me organically is because of the fact that we play for the right reasons."

SMOOTH TRANSITION

'Pathirana is a perfect replacement for Bravo'

Former India pacer Irfan Pathan reckons CSK has found in Matheesha Pathirana a perfect replacement for Dwayne Bravo. "Every team looks for a bowler whom they can bank on in the death overs. CSK now has Pathirana. He's a perfect replacement, plus he has genuine pace," said Irfan.

KEEP YOUR COOL

Buttler fined 10% of his match fee for breach of code

Rajasthan Royals opener Jos Buttler has been fined 10% of his match fee for a Code of Conduct breach in Thursday's game against Kolkata Knight Riders. Buttler got run out following a mix-up with Yashasvi Jaiswal and smashed the boundary rope with the bat in anger.

INBRIEF

Swiatek gets off to perfect start in Italian Open

Iga Swiatek started her bid to win her third straight Italian Open title with a 6-0, 6-0 thrashing of Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova in the second round. World No. 2 and Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka had been knocked out by Sofia Kenin 7-6(4), 6-2 on Thursday.

Roma edges Leverkusen; Juventus draws with Sevilla

Roma beat Bayer Leverkusen 1-0 and Juventus held Sevilla 1-1 in the Europa League semifinals on Thursday.

The results (semifinals, first leg): Roma 1 (Bove 63) bt Bayer Leverkusen 0; Juventus 1 (Gatti 90+7) drew with Sevilla 1 (En-Nesyri 26).

India beats Australia, meets HK in fifth place match

India beat Australia 2-1 in the positional play-off for the 5-8th places in the Asia-Oceania Junior Davis Cup under-16 tennis tournament in Shymkent on Friday. In the fifth place match, India will play Hong Kong.

The results: Play-off (5-8th place): India bt Australia 2-1 (Aarjun Pandit bt Lachlan McFadzean 3-6, 6-1, [10-5]; Kriish Tyagi bt Demmbo Jake 6-2 (retired); Rethin Pranav & Kriish Tyagi lost to Jonas Hahn & Lachlan McFadzean w.o.).

Kishan scalps five in DPS (South)'s win

J. Kishan (5/7) helped Delhi PS (South) defeat PESCA in the Tiger Cup under-14 cricket tournament in Bengaluru.

The scores: EISB 97/4 in 26 overs (Rithwik Kulasekar 35, Bryan Thomas 30) lost to DPS (E) 98/1 in 15.5 overs (Abhinav Kulkarni 46, Shahan Shadab 46); PESCA 104 in 27.2 overs (Krishna Kumar 33, J. Kishan 5/7) lost to DPS (S) 105/7 in 27.2 overs (Hannan Zaki 31, Ryan Tomar 22, Krishna Kumar 3/9).

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: MTV, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema, 5 & 7.30 a.m.
IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema, 3.30 & 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 2 & Hotstar, 5.30 & 7.30 p.m.
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema, 5.30, 7.45, 10 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Sunday).
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema, 6.30, 9.30 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Sunday).
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 & 10 p.m.

Jaiswal swears by disciplined approach

The 21-year-old is giving priority to his preparation, being in the zone, and always trying to learn and improve

IPL-16

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Dashing opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, whose unbeaten 47-ball 98 enabled Rajasthan Royals thrash Kolkata Knight Riders by nine wickets, said a disciplined approach, including attention to fitness, made him a better player.

The 21-year-old, who scored the fastest Indian Premier League half-century, off just 13 deliveries, gave priority to his preparation and being in the zone.

Gaining confidence

"It's about my preparation, how focused and disciplined I am – especially on my fitness. After fielding for 20 overs, you have to open the innings with such intensity. Overall, I do what I can outside cricket to keep myself fit and mentally strong. I get confidence from that," said Jaiswal at the post-match press conference.

"My thumb rule is (priority to) my routine and the process. I try my best to keep my focus on that and keep learning every match. It's very important to take my game forward. I have legendary players around me. Whenever I get a chance, I speak to M.S. (Dhoni) *bhai*, Virat (Kohli) *bhai*, Rohit (Sharma) *bhai*, Jos (Buttler) *bhai* and Sanju (Samson) *bhai* about how to keep my mind in control, what to think. I always try to learn and improve.

"I talk a lot with (RR director of cricket) Zubin (Bharucha) Sir about my batting. We have a good academy in Talegaon. My main preparation happens there," said Jaiswal, who has amassed 575 runs and is one run behind Orange Cap holder Faf du Plessis.

Jaiswal was delighted at having scored the fastest IPL fifty and did not regret missing out on an opportunity to get another hundred. The young left-hander, who plundered 26 off the first over bowled by Nitish Rana, said he was ready to get some quick runs.

'Amazing batter'

KKR top-scorer Venkatesh Iyer also lauded Jaiswal. "It's the variety of shots he played, effective and orthodox. He played just one reverse hit. He is a man in form, an amazing batter," said Venkatesh.

Making merry: Jaiswal, who scored the fastest IPL fifty and just missed out on a hundred, says he is ready for more quick runs. K.R. DEEPAK

Hriday and Nancy claim air rifle silver in Baku WC

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau

Hriday Hazarika and Nancy won air rifle silver medals in the men's and women's sections in the World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Friday.

Hriday, who had qualified in the seventh place, fought brilliantly till he was beaten to the gold by 0.5 point by Zalan Pekler (636.2) of Hungary.

Incredible score

Hriday had got ahead of Sheng Lihao of China who had topped qualification with an incredible score of 637.9, a world record that erased his own earlier mark .

In the women's final, Nancy was beaten to the gold by 0.7 point by Han Jayu of China, who had trailed the Indian by 0.1 point before the last two shots.

Ramita Jindal also shot very well but placed 10th with her score of 631.4.

India continued to stay second in the medals table with a gold, two silver and a bronze medal, behind China with two gold, a silver and two bronze.

Memorable day: Hriday and Nancy. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results:
10m air rifle: Men: 1. Zalan Pekler (Hun) 252.4 (636.2); 2. Hriday Hazarika 251.9 (630.3); 3. Sheng Lihao (Chn) 230.5 (637.9); 23. Rudrankksh Patil 628.8; 28. Shahu Tushar Mane 628.1.

RPO: Divyansh Singh Panwar 633.1; Arjun Babuta 630.6.

Women: 1. Han Jayu (Chn) 254.0 (634.3); 2. Nancy 253.3 (631.6); 3. Huang Yuting (Chn) 232.5 (631.8); 10. Ramita Jindal 631.4; 17. Tilottama Sen 629.7.

RPO: Elavenil Valarivan 628.2; Narmada Nithin 627.4.

BWF hands interim ban on the new 'spin serve'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

With the new 'spin serve' creating a flutter, the Badminton World Federation (BWF) has decided to put an interim ban on the use of the experimental serve with immediate effect until May 29, 2023.

"The BWF Council has approved a proposal for an 'experimental variation' to the Laws of Badminton to forbid the use of the new 'spin serve' effective immediately until 29 May 2023," the BWF said in a statement.

This is a kind of serve where the player holds the cork of the shuttlecock in between his or her thumb and middle finger and tries to put a spin to it with a carrom strike motion before sending it across the net with the racquet.

Bronze for Bhoria, Nishant, Hussamuddin

BOXING WORLDS

Sports Bureau

The Indian challenge at the World boxing championships came to an end with Deepak Bhoria (51kg), Mohammad Hussamuddin (57kg) and Nishant Dev (71kg) claiming bronze medals in Tashkent on Friday.

Knee injury

While Bhoria and Nishant went down fighting in the semifinals, Hussamuddin withdrew before his bout due to a knee injury.

Nevertheless, they ensured India's best-ever medal count in the men's event.

Bhoria, a ninth-place finisher in the 2021 edition, lost 4-3 to fourth-seeded two-time Worlds bronze medallist and reigning European champion Billal Bennama in a neck-and-neck fight.

Bennama exhibited his swift left jabs from a long range, but Deepak closed the gap and landed solid combinations in the final minute of the first round but could stop the Frenchman from winning the bout 3-2.

Bhoria made a fine comeback in the second 3-2 by connecting some impressive blows.

Bennama relied on his left punches, while Bhoria delivered his sets of left-right blows on target to inflict a count on the Frenchman.

Bennama was declared the winner following review of the bout.

Nishant was beaten 5-2 by fourth-seeded Aslanbek Shymbergenov of Kazakhstan.

Hussamuddin gave a walkover to his Cuban opponent Saidel Horta due to the injury he received during his quarterfinal bout.

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